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## 'Settlers used Agent Orange'

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Palestinian farmers charged Monday that Jewish settlers used a helicopter to spray and kill hundreds of their olive trees with deadly defoliant Agent Orange. "Nearly 2,600 trees have been destroyed by settlers" on land the Jewish occupiers claim, Mahmoud Al Attar told journalists. The 50-year-old farmer from the West Bank village of Turmos Ayya, near Ramallah, brought the shrivelled bark of an olive tree to a press conference. Settlers have denied the charges but witnesses from the village said a helicopter had flown over the olive grove several times during August. "Ten days after the last flight, I saw my trees changing. About 20 were seriously affected," Mr. Attar said. An agronomist from the Palestinian university of Bir Zeit, Mahmoud Attar, said: "Our analysis shows a strong concentration of 2-4D, a component of Agent Orange, in the sap of the trees." Mr. Attar of the Palestinian environmental information centre said U.S. forces used Agent Orange as a defoliant during the Vietnam war.

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# Jordan Times

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جريدة تليز يومية سياسية اردنية الرأي

Murayama pays 'highly fruitful and successful' visit

## Japan reaffirms commitment to support for Mideast peace process, praises Jordan's role

Kingdom to receive \$400 million in Japanese assistance

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama paid a six-hour visit to Jordan on Monday and gave a new impetus to Jordanian-Japanese political and economic relations and produced a Japanese pledge to extend a \$200 million loan to the Kingdom.

The loan, which will be granted in concert with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, will raise to more than \$400 million that Jordan is expected to receive from Japan as grant aid, project loans and non-project credits in the 1995-Japanese fiscal year (April 1995-March 1996).

In talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Murayama also indicated that ongoing moves to restructure the United Nations "to reflect the changes in the

international scene in the last 50 years," and Jordan reaffirmed its backing for Japan's bid to enter the Security Council as a permanent member, said an informed source.

According to the source,

Mr. Murayama, in the 75-minute meeting — that included a tête-à-tête of the two leaders — also paid tribute to the "courageous" role that Jordan took to make peace with Israel and the contribution it has made to lead others in the same direction.

On Iraq, the two leaders agreed that means should be found to alleviate the suffering of the people of Iraq and "at the same time Baghdad should fulfill all its obligations under the relevant U.N. resolutions."

They also supported ongoing moves to restructure the United Nations "to reflect the changes in the

(Continued on page 7)

## King, Crown Prince pay tribute to Japan's continuous support

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Monday paid tribute to Japan's continued support for Jordan and described his talks with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama as very good.

The King, in comments to Jordan Television, after his talks with Mr. Murayama, said the Japanese prime minister's visit to the Middle East was extremely important, giving the role that Japan plays in the international scene.

The King also expressed hope that Japan's participation in next month's Middle East and North Africa economic summit would be active and effective, a theme echoed by Mr. Murayama in comments at a press conference.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meanwhile voiced appreciation of Mr. Murayama's announcement that Japan was granting additional assistance worth \$200 million to Jordan. The move affirms the Japanese position, which has always been supportive of Jordan, the Crown Prince said.

The Crown Prince also referred to the highly successful visit he paid to Japan in May, when the Kingdom held a

(Continued on page 7)



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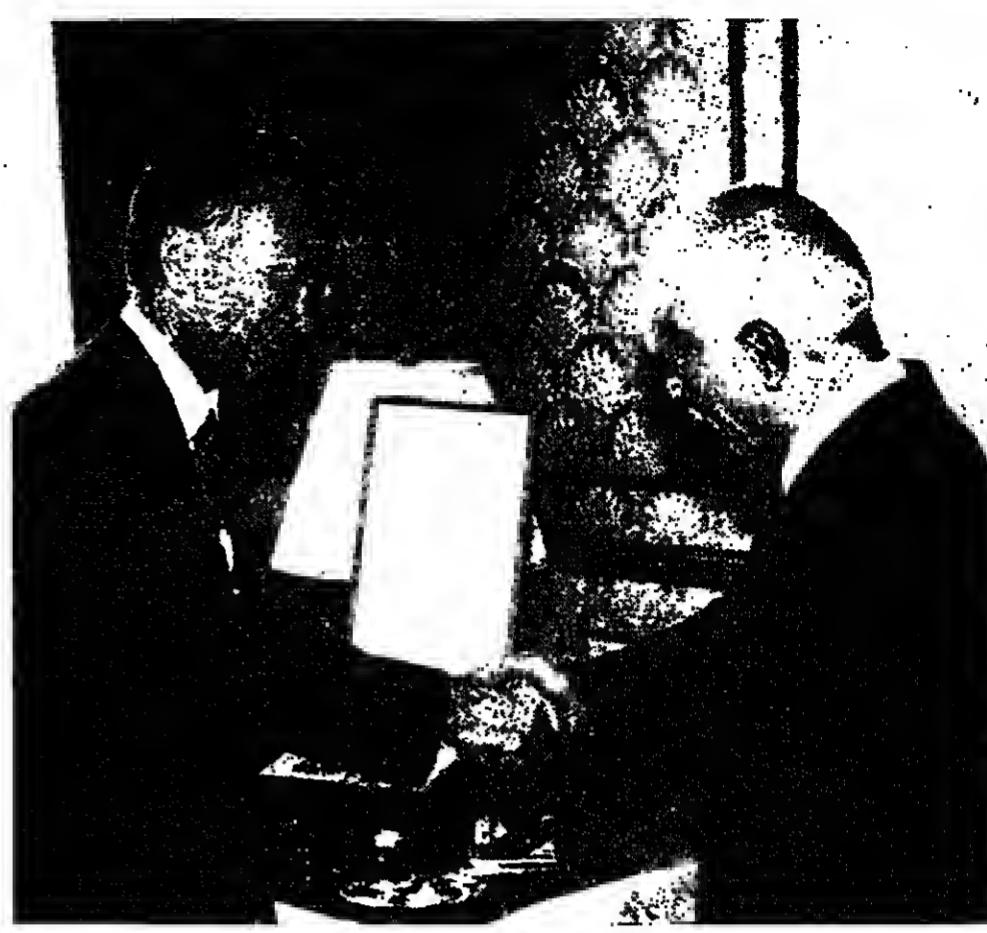
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His Majesty King Hussein on Monday presents the Decorated Al Nahda Medal to Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in appreciation of his role in promoting Japanese-Jordanian relations (photo by Yousef Allan)

## De Charette arrives for review of ties, summit, Iraq and Bosnia

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette arrived here late Monday on a 24-hour visit for talks on the Middle East peace process, the developments in Iraq and Franco-Jordanian relations.

In comments at a press conference in Cairo after talks with his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa, the French minister also indicated that another key theme for his discussions with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti will be the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where a peace plan appears to be making headway.

In an arrival statement, Mr. De Charette described the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which will be held in Amman in October, as a grand event.

France will play an active role in the economic summit, he said. France will be represented at the summit by the ministers of industry and trade as well as foreign affairs, he announced.

He said that his talks here will focus on Iraq and other issues of mutual interest.

The French official said his country's military presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the

formation of a rapid deployment force have speeded up the process of resolving the Bosnian problem.

He added that European mediation efforts and American intervention in the former Yugoslavia have increased the possibility of reaching a peaceful settlement.

Mr. De Charette, paying his first visit to the Middle East after joining the cabinet of President Jacques Chirac in June, described his talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria as fruitful and constructive.

The minister is accompanied on the visit by the director of the foreign ministry's Middle East and North African Department, Dennis Bauchard, and other officials.

Mr. De Charette's talks with Mr. Mubarak and with Foreign Minister Amr Musa in Cairo focused on the Middle East peace process and a financial protocol to be signed later this year.

"France supports the peace

(Continued on page 7)

## 2 Nigerians beheaded in Jeddah

RIYADH (AFP) — Two Nigerians were beheaded Monday in the southwestern city of Jeddah for drug trafficking, bringing the number of executions this year to a record 172. Mussa Ben Abdullah Ben Mohammed and Isma Ben Bakr Ben Issa were found guilty of smuggling mind-bending pills into the kingdom, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

U.N. envoy meets Iraqi officials

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A senior U.N. envoy met on Monday with Iraq's oil minister as part of a visit aimed at finding out whether Baghdad has destroyed all its germ warfare material.

Asked if it understood the difficulties faced by Israel and the PLO in reaching agreement on disarmament, met with General Amer Rashid who has also headed Iraq's Military Industrialisation Organisation (MIO) since its former chief

resigned.

"We expect to initial an agreement here by Thursday," said a PLO official at the talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

In Washington, the White House said it understands the difficulties faced by Israel and the PLO in reaching agreement on disarmament.

"The United States as an active intermediary in the process understands how difficult these issues are and the hard work that goes into for-

mising their agreements... we hope they resolve those differences and are in position to reach agreement as soon as possible," he said.

Although both sides hoped to initial an agreement this week, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said they expected to miss Thursday's target date for a signing ceremony at the White House.

Asked if the Clinton administration considered this a setback, Mr. McCurry said, "No, we consider it progress when they are meeting and dealing with the very difficult issues."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat, asked if he expected to reach agreement by Tuesday, placed the onus on Israel, saying: "Do you think anybody can dance tango alone?"

During a break in his talks with Mr. Peres, Mr. Arafat told reporters in the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip that many obstacles re-

(Continued on page 7)

## Israel, PLO closer to deal, but likely to miss deadline

TABA, Egypt (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) edged closer to agreement on Monday on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank but doubted they would meet Thursday's target for signing an accord in Washington.

"We expect to initial an agreement here by Thursday," said a PLO official at the talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

In Washington, the White House said it understands the difficulties faced by Israel and the PLO in reaching agreement on disarmament.

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(Continued on page 7)

## Arrests continue in Sudan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Leaflets in Khartoum called for a reocoval of protests as Sudanese police arrested 20 more people in connection with last week's wave of violent demonstrations, the Arabic Daily Al Sharq Al Awsat said on Monday.

The leaflets distributed in the capital called for a resumption of demonstrations to join in, the paper said.

The London-based daily, received in Cairo, did not say who was distributing the leaflets.

The paper reported that "tension remained high" in Khartoum, Niles and Sudan universities in the capital a week after 3,000 students descended into the streets of Khartoum in protests that left three dead by official count.

Informed sources told the paper that 20 had been arrested in the past two days in various locations throughout the capital.

The arrests came as part of police raids against "those they consider responsible for organising and mobilising the demonstrations" which erupted in Khartoum on Sept. 11 then spread to other major cities the next day.

Security forces arrested up to 500 people, including 270 students, in Khartoum and other cities during the protests and in the days immediately following, the Sudanese Human Rights Organisation (SHRO) said.

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Sudan announced on Sunday that "all students arrested during the demonstrations have been released, including those against whom there is proof of their participation in riots."

The four ministers also discussed means to increase regional trade and economic cooperation and agreed to continue consultations, officials said.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Ragheb said after the talks with Israeli Economy and Planning Minister Amr Musa that the meeting was "very important and interesting" and that there was "broad consensus" among the participants on the summit.

The four ministers will be presented in a joint paper to the summit.

The four ministers agreed to set up a technical committee to draw up the "appropriate mechanism" for these projects, which include link-

ing the electricity grids of the four countries, roads, tourism expansion schemes, bridges across the River Jordan and telecommunications.

Later in the day, Mr. Abu Ragheb held a separate meeting with Mr. Nashashibi and discussed joint Jordanian-Palestinian projects that could be presented at the summit as well as visions of trilateral — Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli — arrangement to boost economic cooperation.

Mr. Beilin, Dr. Khalaf and their Palestinian counterpart Nabil Shaath are expected to meet in Bonn next month to give what officials describe as a new impetus to economic cooperation among the three sides.

A Harvard study released in July recommended that, given the complementarities and disparities among the three economies, the three sides should strive for eventual free trade agreement among them, starting with Israel giving preferential treatment to Jordanian products and Jordan giving similar status to Palestinian products and relaxing controls on imports of Israeli products.

No Jordanian official has formally commented on the recommendation.

## Croat-Muslim gains split Bosnia along U.S. plans

Shots narrowly miss Rifkind

BRITISH FOREIGN Secretary Malcolm Rifkind narrowly escaped serious injury in Sarajevo Monday when a volley of shots hit close to where he stood, British embassy officials said.

He said the Bosnian army claimed the split was 52 for the federation and 48 for the Serbs, figures he could not immediately confirm.

Mr. Rifkind was visiting a British reconstruction project in the Bosnian capital close to frontlines when the incident happened. "There was a shot as he got out of the car nearby and then a volley of gunfire," a British embassy official said.

"We cannot be very sure if it was aimed at him," the official said.

Some reports said a shell had smashed into a house a split second after Mr. Rifkind walked past it.

negotiations and send the Serb-led Yugosl

## UAE rejects criticism over death sentence for Filipina

Justice Ministry notes verdict subject to appeal and cannot be carried out without president's approval

DUBAI (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday rejected the wave of protests triggered by the death penalty issued against a young Filipina maid, saying it was dictated by Islamic law.

The UAE Justice Ministry added, however, that President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan could ultimately prevent the execution of the sentence issued Saturday against Sarah Balabagan after she was found guilty of murdering her employer.

"The UAE implements Islamic Sharia law. What has been said on the sentence issued against Sarah Balabagan is surprising and distorts reality," the ministry said in statement carried by the official agency WAM.

"The accused has the right to appeal," it added, also pointing out that the "death sentence cannot be executed without the president's approval."

In the meantime defence lawyers can appeal twice: first to the appeal court and then to the Federal High Court, the statement said.

The ministry said Ms. Balabagan was 27 years old and her employer, Mohammad Abdullah Al Baloushi whom she stabbed to death last year, was 70.

Ms. Balabagan's defence lawyers say she is 16 and her identification papers were forged by the recruiting agent to thwart the Philippines' law against child labour.

Ms. Balabagan said she stabbed her employer in self-defence after he tried to rape her.

But the Islamic court in Al Ain, 160 kilometres east of the capital Abu Dhabi, said there was no evidence to back her claim.

The death sentence triggered a wave of angry protest



**Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan**

in the Philippines and from support groups for overseas workers.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Slazon on Monday said President Fidel Ramos would make a personal plea for clemency in March.

Philippines officials have appealed for calm and reiterated their belief that justice would prevail in the UAE courts.

"I cannot comment on what will happen if the appeal fails," said Mr. Serences. "I believe Sarah's innocence will win her freedom."

But some officials and lawyers from the Philippines who have defended Ms. Balabagan in the UAE have said an execution would unleash widespread anger back home.

If the Al Ain appeal court maintains the death sentence, the case will go to the Abu Dhabi supreme court. Sheikh Zayed must approve, an execution if the death sentence sticks, sources said.

Philippines officials expect a protracted legal struggle but Ms. Balabagan's chief lawyer said he thought media attention would accelerate the appeal process.

"We are also thinking of bringing a senior official from Manila to intercede on Sarah's behalf with officials here. That will probably include Sheikh Zayed."

The verdict stunned Filipinos in the Gulf and at home and prompted Philippine embassy officials to step up diplomatic lobbying to save Ms. Balabagan.

Chief defence lawyer Mohammad Al-Amin had planned to file an appeal on Monday but he told Reuters: "I decided to delay the matter so we could have more time to review the verdict."

Outrage at the death penalty imposed on Ms. Balabagan, a Muslim, spread rapidly in the largely Roman Catholic Philippines, still angered by Singapore's execution of a Filipina maid in March.

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**FRANCO-JORDANIAN TIES:** Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti confers with his French counterpart Herve de Charette after receiving him upon arrival late Monday for a 24-hour visit (see page 1)

## 7,000 Palestinian teachers to be trained as self-rule poll officials

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Voter registration classes will start this month for 7,000 Palestinian teachers, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Monday, a day after Israel and the PLO wrapped up an agreement on holding Palestinian elections.

Under the accord, the Palestinian self-rule council running the West Bank and Gaza Strip will have 82 members. Palestinians will cast one vote for council members and another for the head of the Palestinian Authority, a post now filled by Yasser Arafat.

A date for the elections will be announced by Mr. Arafat once Israel and the PLO sign an overall agreement on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

The United States had pushed for a signing ceremony this Thursday, but negotiators remained deadlocked Monday over the fate of the West Bank town of Hebron.

From the date of the signing, Israel will have 100 days to pull its troops out of six West Bank towns in advance of Palestinian elections, Israeli and Palestinian officials said Monday.

Israeli government spokesman Uri Dromi said Monday that Israel made concessions to the PLO on the elections,

in hopes of being repaid with Palestinian flexibility on security issues.

"For them, the most important issue is sovereignty. For us, it's security," Mr. Dromi said. "We made it clear that on security, we cannot compromise."

Israel initially wanted a council of only 20 members, saying it should not be larger than a normal-sized cabinet. The PLO insisted on a 100-member council that is to serve as a national assembly. The council will have some legislative powers.

Israel also made some concessions concerning the participation of the 155,000 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem in the elections.

Israel initially said the Jerusalem Palestinians could vote, but not run for office. In a compromise, the two sides agreed that Palestinians with homes in both the West Bank and in Jerusalem can run for the council.

Jerusalem residents will cast their ballots by mail, but there will be no polling station in the city.

Disputes over voting procedures in Jerusalem had held up agreement on elections for several months.

Israel wanted to avoid any arrangements that could be seen as undermining its claim to sovereignty over all of the city, including the eastern

sector it seized in the 1967 Mideast war and later "annexed".

The Palestinians want East Jerusalem as a future capital.

The Palestinians were busy Monday with preparations for the elections even though the 100-day countdown has not yet begun.

On Sept. 30, training courses will begin for 7,000 teachers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The trainees will register, voters and on election day be posted at the polling stations to help those casting their ballots, said Abdil Nasser Maki, in charge of elections preparations in the West Bank town of Jericho.

He said 1,756 polling stations will be set up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem will be divided into 16 electoral districts.

Mr. Maki said election organisers did not know how many eligible voters there were, saying the population figures handed over by Israel's military government for the West Bank and Gaza were outdated.

The teachers to be trained later this month will go from house to house in towns and villages to register voters. Everyone older than 17 is eligible to vote, Mr. Maki said.

Reports from Baidoa said

## Baghdad invites foreign observers for plebiscite

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq will

invite thousands of foreign parliamentarians and journalists to observe a referendum reaffirming President Saddam Hussein as the country's leader.

Officials at the Ministry of Culture and Information said on Monday journalists from all countries except Kuwait and Israel were welcome. Accommodation will be provided free of charge.

"We are ready to receive thousands of journalists," said one official. "We will provide transport from Amman to Baghdad and back to Amman," he added.

Iraqis vote on Oct. 15. President Saddam is the sole candidate.

Earlier, Iraq said it was ready to receive as many as 10,000 foreign observers for the event.

On Monday, Bagdad newspapers said Iraq's parliament will invite parliamentarians from all over the world to attend the referendum — excluding Kuwaitis and Iraqis.

The ruling Baath Party organisations are preparing ballot boxes and voting centres in Baghdad. Officials

said those eligible to vote will be given a ballot paper with a yes and no box and the voter will be asked to tick one of them.

## Ali Mahdi threatens to declare war on Aideed

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad threatened Monday to declare an "all-out war" against his rival Mohammad Farah Aideed who captured the inland town of Baidoa unless the south Mogadishu强人 withdraws his militia within 24 hours.

General Aideed led some 600 fighters in a blitzkrieg to take control of the town on Sunday and detained 17 expatriate aid workers there, saying he was putting them in "protective custody."

Travellers arriving in Mogadishu from Baidoa said at least 10 people were killed or wounded during clashes between Gen. Aideed's fighters and a small resistance group from the Rahanweyn clan.

Gen. Aideed also claims to be "interim president."

Baidoa was reported calm on Monday following sporadic exchanges of fire on Sunday. A rocket-propelled grenade exploded at the town's main market.

Militiamen loyal to Aideed erected check points around the town.

The foreigners would be asked to obtain residence permits from Gen. Aideed's interim administration, sources close to the warlord said.

Gen. Aideed's supporters elected him "interim president" of Somalia in June. He has since dubbed his militiamen Somalia's "national army" and has embarked on a campaign to disarm opponents and establish himself as Somalia's pre-eminent leader.

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Militiamen loyal to Aideed erected check points around the town.

## Vanunu asks for transfer to Italy

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Mordechai Vanunu, the former nuclear technician jailed for revealing Israel's atomic secrets, is asking to be returned to Italy, the country where he says he was kidnapped by Israeli agents in 1986, officials said Sunday.

But he added: "The National Assembly is confident that the Iraqi people will say... yes to leader Saddam Hussein."

Iraq has made clear that the thousands of foreign delegates and journalists it plans to invite will not be allowed to monitor or interfere in the voting process.

"The target (behind the invitations) will be made clear. It is to observe and not monitor in the sense of interfering in the process of the referendum," said the government newspaper *Al Jumhuriya*.

Early this month the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) approved amendments to Iraq's interim constitution, among them a provision to elect the president by means of a secret ballot for a seven-year term.

The RCC unanimously re-nominated President Saddam for the post. So did the National Assembly of parliament.

Iraqi officials say the voting will reaffirm and renew allegiance to President Saddam and put to rest the "horns of biased propaganda" abroad.

In 1986, Mr. Vanunu provided the Sunday Times of London with photos and information indicating Israel had secretly stockpiled nuclear weapons at its Dimona facility. He was captured and brought to Israel, where he was convicted of treason in 1988.

According to reports, Mr. Vanunu was kidnapped by agents of Israel's Mossad intelligence service in Rome.

Mr. Vanunu, 38, was seen in public for the first time since his capture as his appeal began two months ago. Despite police efforts to keep him out of site, the bearded Vanunu was filmed by TV cameras as he was whisked from a van into the courtroom.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Police detain 5 settlers for 'incitement'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police searched the homes of several Jewish West Bank settlers Monday and detained five on suspicion of incitement and distributing illegal documents, Israeli army radio said. Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen confirmed that officers searched homes of settlers linked to the Zu Arzenu group which has staged protests against planned Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. Mr. Bar-Chen said a number of people were detained, but would not say on what grounds. He said searches were conducted in the West Bank settlements of Kiryat Arba, Givat Shmoneh and Be'er Sheva. Zu Arzenu has organised protests against Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's plans to withdraw Israeli troops from part of the West Bank Group members have blocked roads, staged sit-ins and scuffled with police in demonstrations in recent weeks. Zu Arzenu said Monday that among those detained were the group's founders, Moshe Feiglin and American-born Shmuel Sackett, both of Givat Shmoneh. "We will continue our struggle until this government falls," Zu Arzenu said.

### Israeli army chief escapes Lebanon attack

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Israel sent reinforcements into south Lebanon following a bomb attack which narrowly missed the army chief of staff, Amnon Shahak, security sources said Monday. The army dispatched 11 field guns and two tanks to Marjayoun, its headquarters in the occupied border "security zone," the sources said. General Shahak had just driven by when a road-side bomb exploded on Sunday in the zone, wounding two soldiers. Hezbollah, which claimed the attack, later fired rockets and mortars at two positions held by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army in the zone, prompting retaliatory Israeli artillery fire. There was no report of casualties.

### Death toll in Turkish blast rises to 5

ANKARA (R) — The death toll from the bombing of a cafe in the Turkish city of Izmir rose to five on Monday after a soldier died of his wounds, hospital officials said. The 20-year-old private was one of 25 people wounded in the explosion on Sunday at a cafe frequented by soldiers on weekend leave in the western city. Another soldier and three civilians were killed immediately. No group has claimed responsibility for the blast. Kurdish separatists and Islamist militants have let off bombs in Turkish cities in the past and armed leftist groups are also active in Izmir. In January, Turkish police arrested a leading Kurdish Labour Party guerrilla who they said was responsible for a string of bombings in Izmir, on the Aegean coast.

### Malaysian police bust Iranian ring

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia has smashed a fake passport ring, allegedly headed by an Iranian, which was able to duplicate travel papers of at least 18 countries, the Malay Mail reported on Monday. Eleven Iranians, one Japanese and Indonesian, all aged between 20 and 30, were arrested in a two-day operation by police and immigration authorities last week, the evening tabloid said. Among them was the group's alleged mastermind, an Iranian who had been under police scrutiny for nine months. Two of the suspects suffered broken legs after jumping from a third-floor apartment to evade arrest. Fake immigration stamps and passport embossing machines for countries such as Malaysia, Iran, Sweden, Columbia, Australia, Germany, Turkey, Brazil, Portugal, Norway, Greece, France, the Netherlands, Thailand, Canada, Indonesia, Venezuela and Switzerland were seized. The Malay Mail described the haul as immigration officials' biggest success because of the variety of items seized.

## U.S. should not expand sanctions — Iran paper

NICOSIA (R) — The United States will have its fingers burned if it tries to pressure other countries to join sanctions against Iran, a Tehran newspaper said on Monday.

The English-language Tehran Times said in an editorial that Iran "oversees the whole Persian Gulf region which, by virtue of its oil, is the lifeline of the industrial world."

"After (U.S. President Bill) Clinton's trade embargo against Iran, almost all world countries, including Russia, China, Japan and some European nations, have implicitly announced that trade relations with Iran must continue," it said.

"Iran is the most powerful country in the region and was the most stable country with top security. It is, therefore, the safest place for foreign investment."

The United States in May banned all U.S. business with Iran for its alleged role in sponsoring terrorism and developing nuclear weapons.

Iran is the second largest oil producer in the 12-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The Tehran Times said

Iran was the most powerful country in the region and was the most stable country with top security. It is, therefore, the safest place for foreign investment."

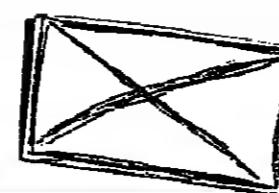
The United States in May banned all U.S. business with Iran for its alleged role in sponsoring terrorism and developing nuclear weapons.

Iran is the gateway to Central Asia and the Caucasus. It is clear that access to the two regions via Iran is the most economical. Hence, any country interested in dealing with these regions has to rely on Iran," the Tehran Times said.

Iran was the most powerful country in the region and was the most stable country with top security. It is, therefore, the safest place for foreign investment."

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## BRIEF

for 'incitement' charged the homes of several day and detained five, including illegal documents, spokesman Eric Barak said. homes of settlers located in the West Bank. People were detained, he said. He said searches at settlements of Kiryat Arba in Arbel have been organized. Yitzhak Rabin's plane of the West Bank. One staged sit-in and some recent weeks. Two Arabs detained were the group who had Shimon Peres will continue our struggle. Attenuated said.

Lebanon attack sent reinforcements to attack which came from Amman. Shattered its headquarters, the sources said. A road-side bomb exploded two soldiers. Hidden rockets and mortars backed South Lebanon casualties.

last rises to 5 from the bombing rose to five on Monday, hospital officials, of 25 people wounded, frequented by soldiers. Another soldier, immediately. No group, just Kurdish separatists in Turkish cities, are also active in Iraq. A leading Kurdish leader responsible for killing was killed.

Iranian ring

has smashed it by an Iranian, who at least 15 countries. Eleven Iranian between 10 and 30, by police and military, including tabloid said. Arrested, in its first time months, two men jumping from a plane. Unmanned aircrafts for countries like Australia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and others. Success breeds off.

not expand Iran paper

Iran-related issues

"It is time the U.S. recognises Iran's position in the international arena and respects her instead of defying it," the "Iran is the gateway to Central Asia and the Caucasus. It is clear that we have two regions via Iran's most economical route. No country interested in developing these regions has left Iran," the Iranian said.

Iran is the second largest producer in the member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The Tehran Times said it was the most powerful in the region and the most stable country. Security is the safest place for investment."

The United States in the United States has been for its alleged role in terrorism and developing nuclear weapons.

market prices

in the market



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday chairs a meeting of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Executive Committee (photo by Crystal)

## NHF panel discusses reinforcing Beijing recommendations in projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday chaired the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) Executive Committee meeting which discussed a range of issues including the Jubilee School's admissions policy and ways of reinforcing the recommendations of the Platform of Action of the World Conference on Women in the diverse NHF projects targeting women and their families, a Royal Court statement said.

The committee approved the decision to admit equal numbers of boys and girls annually into the Jubilee School (an independent secondary school for outstanding scholarship students) to ensure that it maintains its gender equitable educational policy in view of the rising

number of applicants, the statement said.

This year, 88 students were selected out of the 1,280 students from 88 schools throughout the Kingdom.

The student body includes students from Amman, Balqa, Kerak, Irbid, Zarqa, Ma'an, Mafraq and Aqaba. Children from outside Amman currently depend on their families and friends for accommodation until the permanent campus of the Jubilee school is constructed.

According to the statement, Queen Noor suggested holding an open youth debate at the Jubilee School after a presentation on points discussed at the Beijing conference by some of the women and men who attended the UN sponsored event.

## Minor kills sister for marrying against family wishes

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An 18-year-old woman Sunday was shot and killed by her younger brother in Ghor Safi, according to confirmed sources.

According to the source, the victim, Shabieh A., was shot five times in the chest and head by her brother Mohammad, 15, who was apprehended by authorities shortly after the incident.

The source added Mohammad was encouraged by his family to kill his sister because she went ahead and married the man she loved against her family's will.

Shabieh got married two weeks ago against the will of her uncle who urged her

family to kill her," one source told the Jordan Times Monday.

"Her family kept watching her (movements) and waited for the appropriate time to kill her," the source said.

According to the source, the victim was shot at home at about 10:00 a.m. while her husband, Mohammad, 21, was out of the house.

Shabieh was rushed to Ghor Safi Government Hospital and died shortly after, the sources said.

According to the source, the husband will press charges against Shabieh's family.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Monday declined comment, and said they were investigating the incident.

Salem was the third youth to drown in the King Abdullah Canal during the weekend. A fourth victim drowned in a Ghor Safi canal also over the weekend, according to official reports.

## Specialists meet to assess cancer problem in Mideast

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 11 countries including Jordan Monday met at Amman Philadelphia Hotel to discuss cancer cases, carcinogens, cancer treatment as well as to assess the magnitude of the cancer problem in the Middle East region.

The 10-day meeting, organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the Health Ministry, held under the title "International Course on the Introduction to Cancer Epidemiology, With Emphasis on Cancer Control."

In his address to the opening session, Dr. Samir Kayed, deputising for the Health Minister, said there was urgent need for different countries in the region to establish national programmes for the prevention of cancer and to conduct research related to the disease.

His views were echoed by WHO representative Sankar Narayan, who said that the world organisation has already worked out intensive programmes related to cancer research aimed at identifying factors that lead to cancerous diseases.

Taking part in the meeting are delegates from Iraq, Oman, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Tanzania, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Turkey and Jordan.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 70-year-old Israeli tourist dies of heart attack in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Israeli tourist Saturday died of a heart attack while on a visit to the kingdom, according to official sources. Moshe Spector, 70, was with his wife in their room in the Jerusalem Hotel when he suffered a heart attack at around 10:00 p.m., an official at the Israeli embassy told the Jordan Times. According to the official, Mr. Spector was part of a tourist group on a four-day visit to the Kingdom. He added that Mr. Spector's body was taken to Israel Sunday. Mr. Spector was laid to rest Monday.

spread of contagious diseases, the ministry was focusing on the containment of incommunicable diseases which it attributes to rapid industrial development.

In a message sent to participants in the meeting, WHO Regional Director Hussein Jazairi called for the creation of a special programme for combating cancer in the region. Such programmes should provide information about different types of cancer, he said. Programmes of this type are essential for combating the disease, he added.

Mr. Jazairi stressed the need for regional cooperation among specialists in order to better combat the disease.

His views were echoed by WHO representative Sankar Narayan, who said that the world organisation has already worked out intensive programmes related to cancer research aimed at identifying factors that lead to cancerous diseases.

Taking part in the meeting are delegates from Iraq, Oman, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Tanzania, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Turkey and Jordan.

## UNRWA workers stage second sit-in

### No reduction in services, just shift in programmes, says official

By Ghalia Abu  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — About 200 local UNRWA employees Monday staged a sit-in in front of UNRWA headquarters in protest against the agency's reduction of services offered to Palestinian refugees as well as Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen's refusal to meet with them during his visit to the Kingdom which is expected to begin today.

The three-hour sit-in was the second this month and labour committee representatives describe it as part of a long-term strategy which aims to force UNRWA to meet their demands.

Taking part in the sit-in were UNRWA employees, Palestinian refugees and the student council at the Educational Sciences Faculty whose dean was dismissed earlier this month for publicly criticising the agency for its decision to close down the faculty. UNRWA later decided to postpone the closure of the faculty for one year.

The employees also sent Mr. Turkmen a letter in which they insisted that the agency improve their working conditions and pledge more emphasis should be placed on increasing the proportion of women in the decision-making process particularly through the NHF projects' village development councils.

She added that the NHF's Institute for Child Health and Development and the rural development projects would be accumulating information on violence against women and children to initiate the compilation of national statistics throughout the country, the statement said.

Queen Noor suggested holding an open youth debate at the Jubilee School after a presentation on points discussed at the Beijing conference by some of the women and men who attended the UN sponsored event.

that it will not stop offering services to Palestinian refugees.

In the letter, UNRWA labour committee representatives reiterated demands regarding education, health and social services as well as salary increases and end of service compensations.

They also urged procedures that would ensure strict monitoring of the administration of the employees' savings fund in order, they said, to avoid engaging in losing transactions such as the ones carried out last year.

The sit-in was also aimed at pressing UNRWA into reinstating the former dean of the sciences faculty, Izzeddin Mansarah.

UNRWA executive committees hoped in their letter that Mr. Turkmen would respond to all their "justified" demands to guarantee their security.

"Mr. Turkmen's refusal to meet with us and listen to our demands made us think of staging an open sit-in in UNRWA's five areas of operations," a committee representative told the Jordan Times.

He added that Mr. Turkmen's attitude forced the

employees to take this position.

But UNRWA workers were sceptical that the sit-in would bring about any positive results due to clear signals that the agency would not respond to their demands.

Agency workers said that UNRWA had brushed aside all their demands despite having received "huge donations" this year after the donor countries conference, held in Amman.

Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan Dr. J. Saf denied accusations that UNRWA has reduced its services. He said the agency was simply shifting funds from one programme to another.

"There is no reduction of services...it is only a shift from pure relief services gradually to more important services such as education and health services," said Mr. Saf.

He added that the donations UNRWA receives are used to upgrade services.

"Turkmen had promised to grant employees salary hikes in light of the donor countries conference, but nothing has happened so far," a committee representative said.

against him was in line with these regulations.

But Dr. Mansarah can appeal the decision, he said.

"He knowingly violated the rules...but if he feels he was mistreated, he can appeal," Mr. Saf said.

Mr. Turkmen said in a cable, which employees said were sent to them, that he will not meet with them due to time constraints.

During his three-day visit, he is expected to meet with some officials over UNRWA's operations and to open a new school in Baq'a camp financed by Japan.

Meanwhile, executive committee representatives in Jordan called on the United Nations Assistant Secretary General for Administrative Affairs to condemn Mr. Turkmen's decision not to meet with them.

They also requested a meeting with the United Nations Secretary General to discuss UNRWA workers and refugees' problems.

## Sharif Fawaz: French foreign minister's visit is positive point in bilateral ties

By Cathy King  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The economic situation in Europe and more particularly in France, may not be conducive to the extension of grants or direct aid to Jordan, but it is of strategic importance that Europe recognises the value of economic involvement in the Kingdom to cement peace, Jordan's new Ambassador to France, Sharif Fawaz Sharaf, said yesterday.

The ambassador, who leaves for Paris on the way to Western Europe and Japan as among the many examples where economic involvement was essential in the aftermath of war.

Historically, France and Jordan have enjoyed strong bilateral relations, and Ambassador Sharaf is hopeful that ties under new French President Jacques Chirac may be further enhanced.

He said that the current visit of French Minister of Foreign Affairs Hervé de Charette is a "positive point for bilateral relations."

Europe, the European Union, and the French government have a major role to play since organisations and countries have

developed a political willingness and understanding of the progress of peace in the Middle East. Peace needs to be cemented by economic involvement. The rising expectations of the peace dividend is always there to be satisfied."

The ambassador, who leaves for Paris on the way to Western Europe and Japan as among the many examples where economic involvement was essential in the aftermath of war.

Europe and the European Union as members of the UN Security Council, of which France is a permanent member, were involved in political and security matters after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, he said. Now, in the phase of Middle East peace, people are expecting regional solutions to economic, social and political problems and "Europe, France, have a very important role to play," the ambassador said.

France is interested in developing its role in the Mediterranean basin, a

France took up his post in 1949.

During the last four years, Jordan and France experienced close cooperation over the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

Having come from a five-year posting in Geneva as Jordan's permanent representative to the UN European section, Sharif Fawaz Sharaf, said among the many examples where economic involvement was essential in the aftermath of war.

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Despite the complete withdrawal of Jordanian peacekeepers as part of UNPROFOR (UN Protection Forces) in Bosnia and Croatia by the end of this month, Sharif Fawaz stated that Jordan's stand remains the same.

"It is very important in Jordan that we have the chance to benefit through the establishment of cultural contact. We should seize the opportunities available. French culture is a great culture. Although English is our second language, this should not deprive us from increasingly interacting with the French culture," Sharif Fawaz asserted.

region of importance to both our countries. The Mediterranean proffers a mixture of geographic and geopolitical connections between Jordan and France.

According to Dr. Kharabsheh, who has held a series of meetings with Dr. Nabulsi to coordinate matters over this issue so as to ensure the success of the Audit Bureau's mission.

He further stressed that the Audit Bureau's control measures would not mean interference in the bank's monetary policies and would not infringe on its independent status.

According to Dr. Kharabsheh, at meetings with the CBJ governor, who has voiced objection to the

move saying "it was very much against his principles, against his thinking of the efficient and effective management of CBJ."

"It is a step backwards," Dr. Nabulsi said, adding that he had tried his best to block the move.

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## Workshop probes waste dumping problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — As part of ongoing preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference next month delegates from Jordan, Egypt, Israel and Palestine opened a three-day workshop at Amra Hotel Monday to discuss issues related to solid waste and waste management in the four countries.

The workshop entitled "Participation of the Private Sector in the Financing and Management of Public Services of Urban Solid Waste Collection and Disposal" was organised by the European Institute on Resource and Development (EIRAD) in cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality.

In an address at the opening session Hussein Zaki of Amman Municipality presented a working paper on waste disposal in Jordan in which he outlined the role of private sector companies contracted to deal with solid waste in Zarqa, Aqaba and the refugee camps.

The paper also presented Jordan's views in matters related to solid waste management and disposal and said that the Kingdom was ready to cooperate with other countries in the region. The paper also welcomed an offer from EIRAD to open a

regional centre for training personnel for the task.

Palestinian delegate Mohammad Hamidi highlighted the system of Palestinian municipalities in disposing waste through the presentation of a working paper. Mr. Hamidi said these municipalities suffer from a lack of sufficient means to deal with ever-increasing waste.

Egyptian delegate Hussein Huseini stated in his paper that Egypt had implemented major steps towards the manufacture of equipment used in the disposal of waste.

Yossi Ebnar from Israel discussed the contamination of the

# Powell slams Clinton, says U.S. weakened in world

WASHINGTON (R) — Retired General Colin Powell, who is considering a run for president, said he opposed U.S. intervention in Bosnia and was sharply critical of President Bill Clinton in an interview released Sunday.

In the interview with the New Yorker magazine, Gen. Powell said the United States "ought to send a clear signal that we're not going to get involved in this war, and it's not going to end until people are tired of fighting one another."

"For three years we've been giving these mixed signals so the signals are worthless, and therefore we are weakened and cheapened in the eyes of the world. We

have a very bad reputation around the world now as an incontinent political entity."

"It's hurt the president badly and it's hurt his statesmanship really badly," said Gen. Powell, a career soldier who was head of the joint chiefs of staff during the Gulf War.

Gen. Powell started a 26-city tour to promote his autobiography Saturday, a tour many observers see as a prelude to announcing his candidacy for the 1996 presidential election.

In the interview, Gen. Powell was also critical of former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush, saying they were "wanting" in their attitudes toward racism.

"One of my Republican friends had the nerve to send me one of their newsletters a few weeks ago saying that

"Even though Reagan and Bush are two of the closest people in my life, I've got to say this (racism) was an area where I found them wanting."

"They were never sensitised to it. They never had to live with it. They were never close to it," Gen. Powell said.

The son of poor Jamaican immigrants, Gen. Powell was raised in the Bronx and rose to become the first black to head the U.S. military.

In the interview, Gen. Powell also took a strong stand backing affirmative action.

"I really don't want to be elected the first black American president. I don't want to be the poster child for the brothers (street slang for blacks) or for guilty white liberals."

we had to get rid of affirmative action because we couldn't keep putting these programmes in place for allegations of 'vague and ancient wrongs.'

"I almost went crazy. Vague? Vague? Denny's wouldn't serve four Black Secret Service agents guarding the president of the United States," he said.

Gen. Powell added that if he ran he hoped the vote would be colour-blind.

"I really don't want to be elected the first black American president. I don't want to be the poster child for the brothers (street slang for blacks) or for guilty white liberals."

## Protesters attack trains, explode crude bombs in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Opposition activists attacked a passenger train, uprooted the railroad track and exploded crude bombs at a three-day anti-government strike paralysed life in Bangladesh, police and news reports said Monday.

At least 50 passengers were injured when protesters stopped a passenger train and smashed some coaches in Chandpur district, 64 kilometres east of Dhaka Sunday, local newspapers said.

They also damaged railroad tracks at two places in Chandpur district, Banglajahar Patrika said.

At least 400 people were injured in clashes between rival political groups on the first two days of the strike — Saturday and Sunday, police said. The strike will end early Tuesday.

Nearly 200 protesters, most of them street children,

have been arrested by police. The strike was called to press for the resignation of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. It will end at dawn Tuesday.

On Monday, opposition activists set off crude bombs in different parts of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, witnesses said. No casualties were immediately reported. Crude bombs are tin pots filled with explosives.

The streets looked deserted as shops remained closed. Trash piled up on street corners as the protesters did not allow garbage-clearing trucks to ply.

Thousands of opposition activists marched through the streets of Dhaka, chanting: "Khaleda Zia, you must resign now."

Industrial workers squatted on railroads and highways in different parts of the country.

About 5,000 police and

paramilitary troops patrolled the capital city. On Saturday, some government officials walking to their offices were stripped naked by the protesters.

The strike halted train movement and severely disrupted ferry services and air flights, United News of Bangladesh news agency said.

Three main opposition parties - Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-E-Islami - accuse Mrs. Zia of incompetence and corruption. They want her to resign and call for general elections under a caretaker government. Opposition lawmakers have already resigned their parliamentary seats.

The prime minister has rejected the opposition demand. She has offered to resign 30 days before the next election scheduled early next year.

Democracy wins. Hong Kong people want democracy. Hong Kong people certainly are in support of political reforms and they want a system of checks and balances to deal with Beijing," said political scientist Joseph Cheng of City University.

But the victory was not enough to give the pro-democracy camp an automatic majority in the Legislative Council.

The pro-business lobby, which regards the Democrats with suspicion, and independents hold the balance of power.

The DAB's poorer than expected performance, however, is expected to anger China, which left Hong Kong in no doubt of its views when the polls opened Sunday.

Furious about electoral reforms pushed through by British Governor Chris Patten a year ago, Beijing repeated its vow to dismantle the chamber when the British leave and to replace it with an institution of its own choosing.

But China's latest broadside may have backfired.

"Nobody likes to be pushed around or bullied," said political scientist Michael Degolyer, director of the 1997 transition project based at Hong Kong's Baptist University.

The pro-democracy camp fared particularly well in the crucial 20 seats from the normal population-based constituencies, the so-called Geographical Constituencies.

Each person with a job gets a second vote to elect candidates based in so-called functional constituencies based on professions. These elect 30 Legislative Council members.

The Democratic Party won 11 of the 20 Geographical Constituency seats against the two secured by the DAB.

Weather stations predicted that both typhoons are to veer off to the Pacific Ocean before hitting Japan.

## N.Ireland loyalists to visit Dublin

DUBLIN (R) — Spokesmen for Protestant gunmen who bombed Dublin in the past in their battle to keep Northern Ireland British return to the Irish capital this week to talk peace.

The unprecedented visit by so-called loyalist groups will be a rare ray of sunshine on a Northern Ireland peace process which is overshadowed by a bitter deadlock over disarming Northern Ireland guerrillas.

Their visit is seen by Irish officials as a payout of the peace dividend which was announced when the IRA and the loyalists, the IRA's most bitter foes, declared twin ceasefires one year ago.

An Anglo-Irish peace drive is currently paralysed by the refusal of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to give up a single weapon in an arsenal used to fight British rule for 25 years.

But the visits by the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) and the Ulster Democratic party (UDP) Tuesday and Wednesday are seen as evidence that the peace process can bear fruit.

They are also viewed as proof that mainstream Protestant parties in Northern Ireland, so-called Union-

ist groups with a dozen seats in the British parliament, are out of touch with a growing body of Protestant opinion in the province.

David Ervine, leader of the PUP, is fond of saying that for 25 years Northern Ireland's Unionist parties lived under the banner of "Ulster says no".

"And where did 25 years of saying no get us," he told Reuters in a recent interview. "Nowhere. It's time to live up to the new realities on this island," he said.

He is expected to discuss the disarming of guerrillas, the main stumbling block in Anglo-Irish efforts to put a more solid foundation under the ceasefires and build a lasting peace.

Neither the PUP nor the DUP hold seats in the British parliament but their part in brokering a ceasefire by loyalist gunmen one year ago gives them an important political voice.

They see themselves as the mirror image of Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, which seeks to become a fully-fledged political party free from any links to bloodshed.

For 25 years loyalist gunmen saw Dublin as the cen-

tre of a plot to end Northern Ireland's British status and merge it with the predominantly Roman Catholic Irish Republic.

The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) killed 900 Catholics in Northern Ireland in a cold-blooded campaign against the community from which the IRA draws support.

Their most recent bombings were a 1993 UVF attack on a Sinn Fein function at a Dublin pub in which one person was killed and a bungled attempt to blow up a train at a Dublin station.

The loyalists' inept handling of Semtex plastic explosive is in marked contrast to the expertise of the IRA, whose bombers are thought to hold about one tonne of the substance and refuse to give it up until Britain holds all-party peace talks.

But the London government says there will be no new round-table talks for a lasting settlement involving Sinn Fein or the loyalists until their gunmen start giving up their guns.

## Japan searches for missing typhoon victims

TOKYO (AP) — Police continued their search Monday for three people washed away by the rough waters in one of the most powerful storms to hit Japan since World War II.

By early Monday, typhoon Oscar veered off to the northeast of Japan early Monday after doing less damage than expected. It was downgraded to a low pressure system, and sunshine returned to around Tokyo.

On Sunday, Oscar's winds reached 174 kilometres per hour (108 mph), making it comparable to typhoons that killed 1,269 people in 1958 and 5,098 in 1959 in the Tokyo area.

One man was killed Sunday in a landslide in Shizuo-

ka, 95 miles west of Tokyo. And in Chiba, just east of Tokyo, a man died after strong winds apparently knocked him into an irrigation reservoir.

On Monday, police dispatched helicopters and rescue teams in search of the people still missing since Sunday.

A 47-year-old man and his 4-year-old child who were washed away by high waves from a beach at Oiso, about 65 kilometres (40 miles) southwest of Tokyo, as well as a fisherman who fell into a river in Gifu, 270 kilometres (170 miles) west of Tokyo, are still missing, local police said.

Weather stations predicted that both typhoons are to veer off to the Pacific Ocean before hitting Japan.

120 houses were destroyed or damaged by Oscar. They said landslides were reported at 49 places and heavy rain flooded 185 homes in Tokyo and six other nearby prefectures (states).

Two smaller typhoons are traveling southwest of the Japanese archipelago. Typhoon Polly, the thirteenth of the season, is currently 1,700 kilometres (1,054 miles) southwest of Tokyo with top winds of 108 kph (67 mph). Ryan is currently off the coast of southern China with winds up to 90 kph (56 mph).

The pro-democracy camp made up of sympathetic independents and smaller affiliated parties took the balance and the pro-business lobby took one.



Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II leads the service during the reburial ceremony of Grand Duke Sergei Romanov, the uncle of the last Russian Czar Nicholas II, at the family crypt in the Novospassky Monastery in Moscow (AFP photo)

## Russia reburies Romanov relative in Moscow monastery

MOSCOW (AP) — The uncle of Russia's last czar was reburied alongside other Romanov relatives in the chapel of a dilapidated Moscow monastery — an elaborate pilgrimage to the expected interment of Nicholas II and his family.

The remains of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich Romanov, governor of Moscow for 15 years until his murder in 1905, were transported from a long-forgotten grave in a Kremlin corner to the Novospassky Monastery.

A government commission dealing with the issue is due to hold a meeting on Sept. 20 and submit its proposals to the cabinet by mid-October, its head Yuri Yarov said earlier this month.

The remains of Nicholas II and his family may be buried in Yekaterinburg where they were executed in 1918, or in St. Petersburg's St. Peter and Paul Fortress where other ruling members of the Romanov dynasty have been laid to rest, he said.

The remains of the grand duke, meanwhile, were moved at the request of President Boris Yeltsin and his wife Alexandra and their five children to the expected interment of Nicholas II and his family.

"We made an enormous step that will open a bright path both for Moscow and the entire Russia," Grand Duchess Maria Romanova, clad in a black mourning dress, said after the ceremony.

The event set the scene for the long-awaited reburial of the grand duke's more famous nephew.

American and Russian experts confirmed earlier this month that bones unearthed in the Ural Mountains in 1991 were those of Nicholas II and his family and servants. The announcement set off widespread speculation that the family will be given an official, religious burial early in 1996.

That would be a huge

event in Russia, where nationalist feelings are growing rapidly and the brutal Bolshevik killing of the czar, his wife Alexandra and their five children is a source of deep shame. It remains unclear when the burial ceremony could take place.

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The area where the church used to stand, between remaining churches and the new government buildings, was paved over and was used for decades to park black sedans used by government and Communist Party officials.

That would be a huge

church's crypt and the grand duke's remains were discovered under the parking lot during a renovation in the Kremlin last July, according to the daily Moskovsky Komsomolets. Russia's Independent Television said the remains were first found in 1985, and were quietly covered up with concrete again.

Speaking of such Soviet practices, Patriarch Alexey told the television: "You cannot walk over those who have lived before us, who have contributed to the well-being of our land and have helped its people."

The unusual reburial reflects the history of Novospassky itself. The monastery was originally constructed on the Kremlin grounds, but was moved in the 15th century to the banks of the Moscow River. It later became the official burial ground for some members of the Romanov family.

In 1918, the Bolsheviks turned Novospassky into a prison camp. The monastery site also served as a rehabilitation centre for women alcoholics during the Soviet era.

The elaborately decorated chapel, lined with centuries-old frescoes and icons, reopened for services in 1991, and the Russian Orthodox Church is renovating the rest of the facility.

Before Sunday's service, workers casually cleared construction materials from the monastery's main square, piling them against its crumbling outer walls.

Queen mother bans Camilla from official gatherings

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles' hopes of easing his paramour into his public life were dashed by his grandmother, a newspaper reported. Queen Elizabeth the queen mother has twice refused Prince Charles' requests to bring Camilla Parker Bowles to official functions at her residences, the Sunday Express quoted an unidentified senior royal adviser as saying. Prince Charles had hoped to invite Mrs. Parker Bowles to events at the queen mother's residence in Wales and Scotland because she still sets family policy on such matters, the newspaper said. His mother, Queen Elizabeth, would likely file suit and refuse to allow Mrs. Parker Bowles to attend even those functions when the queen mother was absent. The queen mother has no objections to Mrs. Parker Bowles per se, but wants to prevent her grandson from divorcing Princess Diana while he is heir to the throne. Prince Charles reportedly wants to ease Mrs. Parker Bowles into public life and eventually marry her. The adviser quoted the 95-year-old queen mother as saying, "the British people would never accept a divorced king and queen. It would divide the country." She would prefer Prince Charles to renounce his claim to the throne in favour of his elder son, Prince William. In that case, a marriage to Mrs. Parker Bowles, 47, could be countenanced by the royal family. Prince Charles and Princess Diana separated in 1992. Last year he admitted publicly that he had been unfaithful to Princess Diana. An authorised biography later named the other woman as Mrs. Parker Bowles. This year, Mrs. Parker Bowles divorced her husband, increasing speculation that the prince sought to bring her closer into his life.

Liz Taylor released from hospital

SANTA MONICA, California (R) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor went home three days after she was admitted to a Santa Monica hospital for treatment of an irregular heartbeat. Taylor's doctor successfully treated her condition with medication and she was doing well, according to officials at St. John's Hospital. The 63-year-old actress, whose career has been punctuated by health problems, was taken to hospital last Thursday with what was described as "irregularity of her heart rhythm." Last June Taylor underwent hip replacement surgery — just a year after a similar operation on the other hip — and she still walks with a cane. Though Taylor last month announced a "trial separation" from her seventh husband, construction worker Larry Fortensky, he reportedly visited her during her latest hospital stay.

**Don't rule out Bodyguard sequel**

NEW YORK (AP) — Forget Return To Waterworld, but don't rule out a Bodyguard sequel. "The script would have to be great. People know how I feel about writing, so it has to be something special," Kevin Costner told Entertainment weekly in the Sept. 22 issue. There's one second coming the actor will never make happen. "I still watch Field Of Dreams and tear up," Costner said. "We could never do it justice in a part two."

**Seclusion appeals to Anthony Quinn**

BRISTOL, Rhode Island (AP) — Seeking privacy and comfort, veteran actor Anthony Quinn has purchased a six-hectare (15-acre) estate in a remote corner of the Narragansett Bay for \$11.45 million. "The seclusion appealed to him," said real estate agent Richard Dower. Quinn has nothing to fear from his neighbours in the upscale area, who include

# World News

Jordan Times, September 19, 1995

Queen mother  
bans Camilla from  
official gathering

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles' hopes of easing his paramour into his parents' home were dashed by his mother, a newspaper reported. Queen Elizabeth has refused Prince Charles' request to bring Camilla Parker Bowles to see his mother, a newspaper reported. Queen Elizabeth has refused Prince Charles' request to bring Camilla Parker Bowles to see his mother, a newspaper reported. Queen Elizabeth has refused Prince Charles' request to bring Camilla Parker Bowles to see his mother, a newspaper reported.



One of the main players in Canada's Gustafsen Lake blockade, William Jones 'Wolverine' Ignace, is escorted from a police helicopter to jail (AFP photo)

## Canada standoff ends as Indians lay down guns

100 MILE HOUSE, British Columbia (R) — A bitter, month-long standoff between Canadian police and a rebel group of native Indians ended peacefully Sunday after an Indian spiritual leader convinced the group to lay down their guns.

Two rebel leaders, William Jones "Wolverine" Ignace and Percy Rosset, surrendered to police and were taken by helicopter from a disputed ranch in the rugged British Columbia interior to nearby 100-Mile House. All 14 militants followed.

About 100 natives lining the 100 Mile House Airport road chanted, drummed and cheered as groups of rebels

were led from the helicopters to waiting police vehicles and shuttled away. The Indians occupied since June part of a private ranch at Gustafsen Lake, about 450 kilometres northeast of Vancouver, claiming it as sacred aboriginal ground.

The standoff, which began in August and erupted into gunfire at least seven times, followed a string of confrontations between Indians and police across Canada in recent months sparked by the issue of native land claims.

In Grand Bend, Ontario, a 38-year-old Indian was killed this month and two others injured in a gunbattle

with police at a provincial park occupied by Indian demonstrators. The Canadian government acknowledged last week there was some evidence to back native claims that part of the park was a sacred burial ground.

The British Columbia standoff included a two-hour barrage last Monday.

Policeman Peter Montague said Sunday there had been no more violence after Wednesday's visit from another spiritual leader, Chief Arvo Looking Horse, of South Dakota.

"There will be no immunity from prosecution, no amnesty," Mr. Dosanjh said.

Since Wednesday, repeated visits to the camp to

## Yeltsin urges greater effort to secure peace in Chechenya — Lobov

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has ordered his government to step up its efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Chechenya, presidential envoy Oleg Lobov was quoted by Interfax News Agency as saying Monday.

Mr. Lobov, who is also secretary to the powerful Russian Security Council, arrived in the Chechen capital Monday with the message that Mr. Yeltsin wanted to secure a lasting peace and rebuild infrastructure in the breakaway southern Russian republic.

Mr. Yeltsin "ordered the Russian government to step up its work to rebuild Chechen industry and search

for a peaceful solution to the conflict," Mr. Lobov said. The message was delivered as a military agreement providing for the disarmament of Chechenya's separatists and the withdrawal of Russian troops, remains largely academic.

Russia has made it clear that talks on a political settlement cannot proceed until the military accord, signed July 30, has been respected. Separatist negotiators have raised several objections to the implementation of the pact, most recently citing delays in Russian troop withdrawal and the continued armed status of pro-Moscow Chechen factions.

The stalemate has been matched by a volatile situation on the ground, with Russian military officials saying attacks on Russian positions have been getting more aggressive. One Russian soldier was killed and eight wounded in firefights in Grozny, according to Interfax.

Conservative Lobov, an unpopular choice as the Russian president's special representative in the tiny Caucasus republic, is due to remain in Grozny for at least a week.

Russian troops marched into the secessionist republic in December to put down a three-year-old independence movement, sparking a conflict which has left between 15,000 and 30,000 dead.

## St. Thomas confronts hurricane damage with no power, water

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — The tools that used to be in the marina are on the highway. The red roofs of houses are strewn on the ground. The duty-free shops where tourists used to look for bargains are filled with looters.

Hurricane Marilyn has moved on from St. Thomas, but the Caribbean island that it left behind was a changed place Sunday.

Electricity, water and phones were out. Air traffic controllers, the windows of their tower blown out by 100-mph winds, used binoculars and radios to guide in relief flights. A quarter of the houses on the island were destroyed, and nearly all the others damaged.

In Charlotte Amalie, capital of the U.S. Virgin Islands, hundreds of people looted stores at a waterfront shopping centre. No police were in sight.

"These are all odd shoes, man," said a young man at a foot locker store. "I can't find something that fits."

The hurricane, the fourth to hit the Caribbean in as many weeks, tore through the Virgin Islands and eastern Puerto Rico Saturday, blowing apart homes, tossing parked airplanes into the air and killing as many as nine people.

Six people were killed on

St. Thomas, home to 51,000 people. On St. Croix, the most populous of the Virgin Islands with 55,000 people, two people died. One person was killed in Puerto Rico.

On Sunday, Marilyn was churning northwest through the open Atlantic, well east of the U.S. Mainland. At 0300 GMT (11 p.m. EDT), its centre was about 615 miles south-southwest of Bermuda and its top sustained winds were about 160 kph (100 mph).

President Bill Clinton declared the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico disaster areas, making them eligible for federal emergency aid.

Seven military transport planes landed Sunday on St. Thomas with the first relief supplies for island residents — plastic sheeting, water, telephone equipment, emergency medical supplies.

In St. Thomas, many buildings lost their facades, gaping open like doll's houses. FEMA at first said half the island's houses were destroyed, but later said a quarter were destroyed and another 75 per cent damaged.

Marilyn blew out the windows of St. Thomas' hospital and flooded it, making it virtually unusable. Doctors were trying to care for 49 patients, including nine crit-

## Pope arrives in Kenya, faces boycott by Muslims

NAIROBI (AFP) — Pope John Paul II arrived in Kenya on the third and final leg of his African tour Monday but was plunged into controversy as Muslims pledged to boycott his visit.

Sheikh Ali Shee, a Muslim imam who had been due to address the Pope at a ceremony Tuesday, told AFP it was due to a centuries-old "traditional holy war" between Muslims and Roman Catholics.

He said the Catholic Church's desire to Christianise the African continent before the year 2000 has been taken as a provocation, a declaration of war."

"This declaration was made two or three years ago. At the beginning it was our intention to meet the Pope to show our faith, but later on, some Muslims remembered what he had said," he added. "To avoid divisions among the Muslims we decided not to meet him."

The Pontiff was welcomed by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi after arriving in Nairobi from South Africa at 3:10 p.m. (1510 GMT). He had previously visited Cameroon.

Popal trip coordinator Father Stephen Okello said Muslim representatives had handed back VIP cards to the ceremony because of the boycott.

"They feel that the central issue about the African Synod is the Catholic Church has an agenda evangelising the whole of Africa by the year 2000," he told journalists as the Pope was en route.

Another reason was that they were protesting the persecution of Muslims in Spain during the Crusades of the early middle ages — an event traditionally commemorated in September.

"Any act of collaboration with the church in this month would express their approval of what happened to the Muslims many years ago in Spain," Fr. Okello said.

## Blair offers Britain's Liberal Democrats talks on policy

GLASGOW, Scotland (R) — Prospects for cooperation between Britain's two main opposition parties in a future government increased sharply Monday after Labour leader Tony Blair made an open overture to the minority Liberal Democrats.

In a newspaper interview Mr. Blair proposed talks on policy between the two parties ahead of the next general election, due by May 1997, which opinion polls show will probably result in defeat for the ruling Conservatives, in power since 1979.

Liberal Democrat leaders were annoyed Mr. Blair had clearly timed his initiative to upset the opening of their annual conference in Glasgow. But they were careful not to reject the idea out of hand.

Leader Paddy Ashdown, who recently abandoned a stance of equidistance between the Conservatives and Labour in favour of the traditionally left-wing party, urged Labour to

spell out its policies so that voters could decide if it deserved to take government.

"You cannot agree with a blank sheet of paper," he said. "If Labour is now responding to the agenda set by the Liberal Democrats, we are delighted."

"They fail to make clear where they stand. We are determined to tell people exactly where we stand, exactly what they get from the Liberal Democrats. So far Labour has simply failed to come up to the mark," Mr. Ashdown told reporters.

Under Mr. Blair, the once-socialist Labour Party has steadily shifted to the centre of British politics, elbowing its way into territory occupied by the Liberal Democrats.

The Liberal Democrats, with around 15 per cent support in opinion polls, have reacted by espousing more radical causes.

In an interview with the Times newspaper, Mr. Blair said he foresaw discussion

opposed to talking to any body on constructive ideas," Charles Kennedy, another of the party's senior members of parliament, said.

But Mr. Kennedy made clear that a formal electoral pact with Labour was out of the question. "We are not in the business of doing deals at all. We are an independent party."

Mr. Blair's move risks trouble with activists in his own party already critical of the rightward shift in party policy since he took over as leader in July 1994.

To left-wingers, agreement on policy with the Liberal Democrats, with just 24 seats in the 651-member House of Commons, looks unimportant for Labour, which is currently more than 25 points ahead of the Conservatives in opinion polls.

But that lead has been narrowing and is expected to fall further before the election as disenchanted Conservatives rally to the flag.

## Balladur fails to win 1st round in by-election

PARIS (AP) — A disenchanted French electorate failed to elect former Premier Edouard Balladur and other members of his conservative government in the first round of legislative by-elections.

Former Balladur spokesman and Budget Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, former Transportation Minister Bernard Bosson and former

Cooperation Minister Bernard Debre also face runoff next Sunday.

The vote was seen as a return to politics for the moderate Balladur camp, most of whom were shunned by the new conservative government for not backing Jacques Chirac in his come-from-behind presidential

victory.

Other ex-Balladur ministers were re-elected in the first round. They included former Defence Minister Francois Leotard, ex-Industry Minister Jose Rossi, former Youth and Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie, and ex-European Affairs Minister Alain Lamassoure.

## Georgia denies plan to retake Abkhazia by force

TBILISI (AFP) — Georgia and Russia denied Monday that they were planning an operation to restore Tbilisi's control over the breakaway region of Abkhazia.

Akhazian leaders have said that Georgia and Russia are plotting to decide the question by force, since talks on the aftermath of the 1992-1993 war fell through at the beginning of the month.

A spokesman for Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who visited Tbilisi last week, also denied the rumour that force would be used to settle the Abkhazian Georgian stand off.

This is "either an insinuation with provocative aims or false information which has no basis," Mr. Chernomyrdin's spokesman Victor Konov said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin explained his position in Tbilisi and "it did not and will not have anything to do with military actions," Mr. Konov was quoted as saying by Echo Moscow.

The Russian position remains unchanged. The resolution of the Abkhaz question must be done through peaceful and political methods," he said.

A spokesman for Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who visited Tbilisi last week, also denied the rumour that force would be used to settle the Abkhazian Georgian stand off.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has said that Georgia's new constitution gives it the right to solve the Abkhazian problem through force if necessary.

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Mr. Chernomyrdin explained his position in Tbilisi and "it did not and will not have anything to do with military actions," Mr. Konov was quoted as saying by Echo Moscow.

Russia maintains a peace-keeping force on the border between Abkhazia and Georgia proper, and the peacekeepers' mandate calls for them to help resettle refugees in the border

region, Mr. Tsava said.

About 250,000 Georgian civilians were driven out of Abkhazia along with the Georgian army in 1993.

The Galli region, just inside the Abkhazian border, was inhabited almost entirely by ethnic Georgians before the war.

Meanwhile Mr. Shevardnadze appears to face little competition in November's presidential election, according to a preliminary list of candidates published by the Electoral Commission Monday.

Besides Mr. Shevardnadze, the preliminary list includes 11 other hopefuls, but many of Mr. Shevardnadze's strongest opponents do not appear.

## Shuttle returns after 11-day mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Endeavour astronauts ended their 11-day mission Monday, returning to Earth with samples of ultra-pure semiconductor films and digital pictures of the solar wind for scientists to analyse.

Shuttle Commander Dave Walker and pilot Ken Cockrell guided the spacecraft to a smooth landing at the Kennedy Space Centre at 7:38 a.m. EDT (1138 GMT) under clear and sunny skies.

"Welcome back and congratulations on a successful and spectacular flight," said mission control communicator Eileen Collins.

The Endeavour trip marked the fifth shuttle mission this year for NASA. Space agency officials hope to launch the shuttle Columbia next week on a 16-day mission to study microgravity.

During its 7.2 million kilometre journey, Endeavour's five-man crew tackled three major tasks, including the deployment and retrieval of a semiconductor laboratory.

But the two-tonne steel lab was able to muster only four growths of a semiconductor film after a series of problems

with radio communications, overheating and wobbling.

Scientists had hoped that during its 72 hours in orbit the \$25 million lab would produce seven ultra-pure wafers, which are intended to eventually make faster and smaller electronic products such as wristwatch telephones.

Alex Ignatiev, director of the experiment, said the four wafers, each about three inches (7.5 cm) in diameter, would provide adequate samples for researchers and industry to test during the coming two months.

The flying uncrewed lab created a vacuum in its wake about 1,000 times stronger than is possible on earth, making a pristine environment for growing the semiconductor films atom-by-atom.

Astronauts acknowledged that at least some of the glitches were due to the extra risk taken in developing the experiment as part of NASA's "faster, better, cheaper" approach. The semiconductor lab was designed to use mostly off-the-shelf equipment because the space agency is under pressure to spend less money on space experiments.

## Sweden snubs EU after just 9 months

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden into the EU, received a sharp rebuff, getting only 28.1 per cent of the vote.

In general elections a year ago, Mr. Carlsson's SDP won more than 45 per cent of the vote from a poll of 86 per cent of the electorate.

The result means that at least seven of Sweden's 22 European parliamentarians will be politicians who oppose EU membership.

Political analysts said the failure of the EU to perform miracle cures on Sweden's shaky economy was one reason for the success of anti-European movements.

But odd-sounding directives from Brussels dictating the size and shape of vegetables and transport regulations which appeared to lack

logic had also played a key role, they said.

The victorious anti-EU parties — the Greens, which trebled their vote from 12 months ago to win 17.2 per cent, and the Left Party, which won 12.9 per cent — immediately demanded moves to pull Sweden out of the union.

Greens Party spokesman Birger Schlang said the government should call a new referendum on EU membership after intergovernmental conferences due to be held next year. "And then we can get out of the EU," he said.

EU opponents said Sweden should not now continue with plans to take part in the EU's Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

"The election result is a clear signal to the government that they cannot decide on Sweden being part of monetary union without asking us all over again in a referendum," said Left Party leader Gudrun Schyman.

The SDP will have seven seats in the European parliament, the Moderates five, the Greens four, the Left Party three, the Centre Party two and the conservative People's Party one.

"Of course it's a blow," said Mr. Carlsson, who has been criticised for allowing both pro and anti-EU factions to operate within the SDP.

"Now we have to think seriously about how to increase the

# Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1995

## Jordan Times

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## Room for Japan

THE JAPANESE prime minister's visit to Jordan and other neighbouring countries comes at a time when the region is in the midst of a transformation process that will produce sea changes in both the area's economic and political relations. That there is room for a stronger Japanese role in this process is a given. And that both Japan and the countries of the region will mutually benefit from stronger ties is also a fact.

The opportunities that the peace process will avail to the region and those who deal with it are enormous. But utilising these opportunities will require a partnership between Middle Eastern states and countries with the necessary funds and technological know-how. Japan is a suitable partner that countries of the area will find worthy of appreciation, especially for its experience in achieving economic growth. So are the markets of the region extremely necessary for a Japanese industry that is facing stiff competition from other industrialised nations.

The Middle East needs Japanese investments and skills. Japan needs the region's markets. Cooperation thus should be helpful to both parties.

But economics is not the only area in which Japan can play a strong role in the Middle East. Japan has become an economic superpower which can no longer afford to play a marginal role in international politics. Its economic might needs to be accompanied by a political role that ensures balance in every field of international cooperation. Japan has a vested interest in seeing regional conflicts resolved on the basis of fairness and justice because this will lead to stability which in turn will create markets.

In the Middle East, Japan enjoys much more respect and appreciation than many other world powers due to its history of friendly ties with the Arab World. Tapping on this reservoir of mutual respect and goodwill is something which Japan must do in order to serve its interest as well as those of its friends in the region.

Jordan stands out as one of the strongest friends Japan has in this part of the world. The two states have for long enjoyed a solid relationship based on understanding and cooperation. The Kingdom is now opening its doors to international investors and a few can argue against the availability of economic opportunities in the Kingdom. Japanese investors will find more than profitable projects in the Kingdom. They will find a culture that respects theirs and a political system that harnesses ties with the Japanese people.

It is in this context of appreciation of the support that Japan has offered the Kingdom throughout the years that we welcome Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in Amman. And it is with hope for stronger ties and more cooperation that Jordan looks to its future relations with Japan.

Many nations are trying to find a place for themselves and their economies in the changing Middle East. Japan has earned itself a clear edge over many of them by adopting a balanced and consistent policy towards the region. Jordan and Japan can set an example for the kind of partnership that should exist between the Middle East and that part of the world, namely Asia, in which Japan is a leader.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily on Monday welcomed a visit to Jordan by Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and expressed deep appreciation of Japan's continued aid to the Kingdom. Jordan is deeply grateful to Japan for contributing to Jordan's development economically and socially. By helping Jordan, Japan is contributing most effectively towards enhancing the Middle East peace process, said the paper. It said that Japan being one of the richest nations can through economic assistance play a leading role in the Kingdom's development projects and contribute to the region's stability. On the political level Japan can give impetus to the multilateral phase of the peace process. By maintaining strong contacts with and providing economic assistance to the countries of this region, and by providing political contributions to the stability of Jordan and neighbouring countries. Japan is thus encouraging regional cooperation and contributing to the building of peace and shaping a better future for the coming generations, the newspaper said.

A writer in Al Dastour called for monthly meetings between journalists and editors of the weekly papers and the Minister of Information with whom they can exchange views about the on-going developments to help the tabloids improve their performance. Mohammad Subeili said that the government cannot put the blame on these weeklies for the way they have been performing and cannot hold them responsible for harming Jordan's relations with other countries by their reports because the editors are not invited to meetings with the King nor do they have access to the minister of information said the writer. He claimed that the weeklies have been complaining of the government's behaviour and not giving them serious attention. But he said the weeklies are becoming influential and affecting the views of a large sector of the public in the country.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# Two years after Oslo: Logic 1, lunatics 0

By Rami G. Khouri

TWO YEARS after the signing of the Oslo agreement between the PLO and Israel, the balance sheet of peace-making is more than mildly impressive. Like the conflict between the Arab and Zionist identities in Palestine and the wider Middle East for most of this century, the process of making peace has stumbled along from one mini-crisis to another — but in the stumbling it has made significant, incremental progress.

Several things need to be recognised about the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, the most important being that the process itself continues apace. Implementation of the Oslo accord is moving ahead, despite its considerable flaws. Both sides are expending more, rather than less, energy and thought today on the mechanics of peace-making than they were a year ago.

The opponents of peace have been soundly checked to date, but they have not been fully defeated. The Israeli Likud and the Palestinian alliance of Islamists and lefties wait in the wings like ideological vultures who feed on the carcasses of their people's political discontent and despair. But they have had little to feed on in the last two years, because the majorities on both sides have clearly indicated their willingness to pursue Oslo's fuzzy promise.

In this respect, it is important to note how the issue of terror against Israelis — notably bombings of Israeli civilian buses by Palestinians Islamists — has largely lost its political impact. With every new bombing, the Israeli government declares its determination to continue the talks even quicker than it did after the previous bombing. Terror has backfired against the bombers. It has solidified centrist Israeli public support to continue with the peace process, because most Israelis now realise the separation between Israel and Palestine is probably the best way to ensure Israel's security; and, it has given Yasser Arafat and his 18,000 guards good reason to come down hard on the Islamists, resulting in a considerable loss of Islamist face and credibility among Palestinians (to the point where the Islamists, at least the Hamas Islamists, are ready to make a political deal with Arafat & Guards).

It is striking today how nonchalantly Israeli government ministers — not leftie lunatic weirdos, but government ministers

— speak of the imminent birth of a sovereign Palestinian state. Foreign dignitaries (the latest, this week, are from South Africa and Japan) routinely visit Orient House in Jerusalem, the unofficial PLO headquarters. Most Israelis find this politically marginal, except for West Jerusalem Mayor Yossi Olmer, whom most Israelis also find politically marginal.

The gradual, de facto birth of a sovereign Palestinian state in Palestine is taking place in the minds of many Arab and Israeli people, and in symbols and trappings of statehood, before it actually happens on the ground in a de jure manner.

Recognising this, over one-third of Jewish settlers and colonists in the West Bank have already expressed some desire or willingness to return to Israel proper, if they are compensated financially. How interesting — nobody has officially asked them to leave, yet one-third already are emotionally packing their bags. Most of the rest will follow in due course.

Oslo allowed Jordan and Israel to sign their peace accord, and initiated a series of bilateral and multilateral Israeli contacts with others in this region. Our region's formal acceptance of Israel as one of many native Semitic sons will contribute positively to the narrower Israel-Palestine negotiations; justice and peace will advance parallel with the dynamic by which Israelis gradually disengage their memories of persecution at the hands of mostly Christian Europeans from their future vision of acceptance by mostly Muslim Arabs.

This suggests to me that the single most important achievement of the last two years has been in the psychological rather than in the political or territorial realm.

The Oslo process, despite the continuing frustration, fear and even humiliation that it engenders among both Israelis and Palestinians, is proving to be a huge logistical success. It is providing the hitherto elusive platform from which both sides feel confident to swim into uncharted territory, because they now recognise that they will both swim there together as neighbours and partners, rather than as predatory adversaries.

By providing the space, time and modalities for ongoing negotiations among two parties that had viewed one another as existential foes, the Oslo process has permitted the majority among the Palestinian and Israeli political leadership to make the difficult but critical psychological transition that is a prerequisite for genuine justice and peace; not only does each side now view the other as a credible and reliable partner, but in fact each side needs the other now in order to make the peace process work, and so to ward off the Palestinian and Israeli ideological vultures back home who hover overhead, waiting for the negotiators to make a

fatal mistake.

This procedural, psychological breakthrough has occurred at the expense of substantive, political progress. The amazing thing about the Oslo process is that, two years on, it has yet to seriously address substantive issues of land, water, refugees, Zionist colonies and settlements, Jerusalem and other such key subjects. The achievements to date are psychologically compelling, but politically and territorially superficial.

Of course, Oslo was not designed to address the tough core issues until Spring 1996. The situation on the ground may require a speeding up of the Oslo timetable. Situations such as armed Zionist settler colonialism in Hebron — not only righteously lunatic weirdos but armed settlers formally protected by the army of the state of Israel — have forced both sides to take a huge step forward into the realm of the substantive, finally to make the transition from psychological massaging to national arm-wrestling.

My personal guess is that the Oslo process will proceed and succeed, because of the proven efficacy to date of its single most important element: the willingness to compromise politically in the short term, in order to allow for continued psychological detente that will achieve more substantive political gains in the long term. As long as both sides feel that short-term compromise brings them long-term reward, this dynamic will continue to achieve progressively more substantive political and territorial breakthroughs.

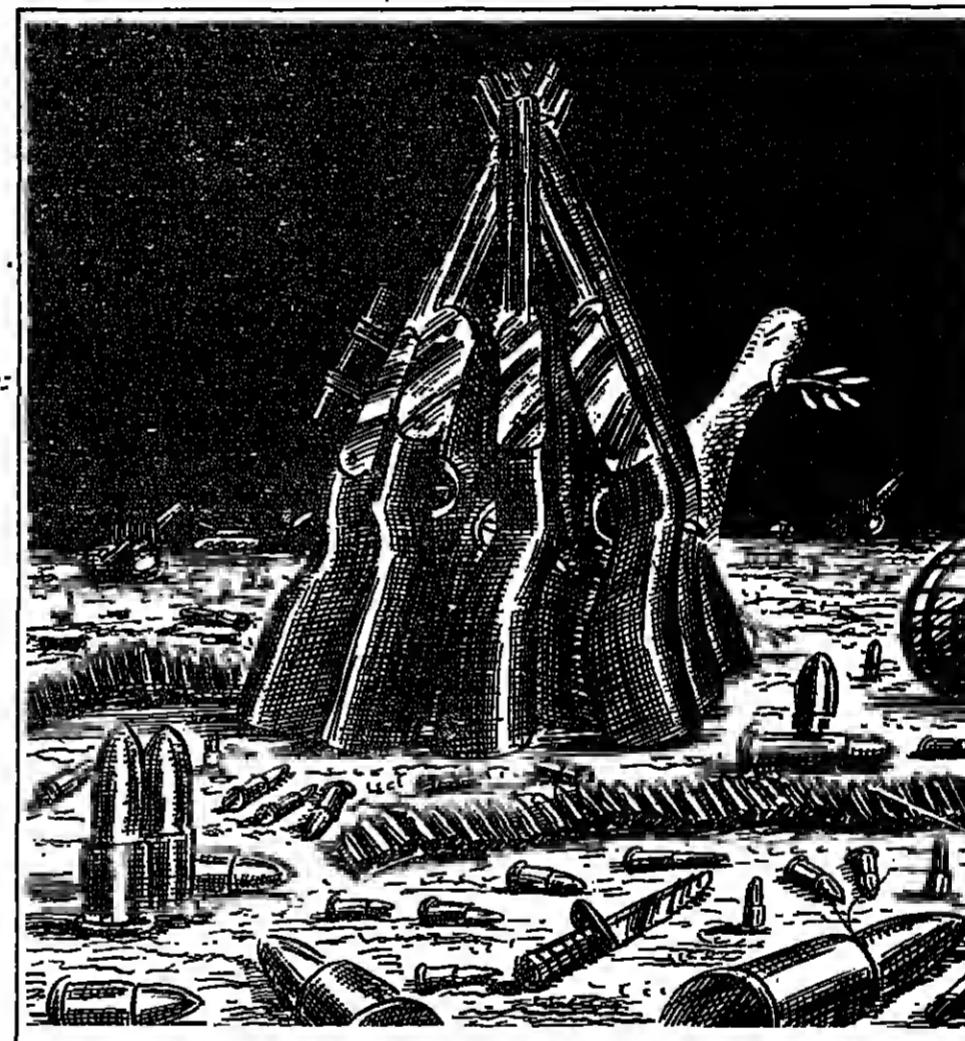
The last two years have shown that Oslo represents a process and a mindset, rather than a quantifiable peace deal. I and others who have supported the Oslo process from its inception — and still support it — argue today that its gains cannot be fully measured today, because as a process it brings gains only with time.

The past two years have not been wasted. They have achieved what the past two generations could not achieve: tacit recognition of the other's humanity and statehood by both Palestinians and Israelis. Now the hard work begins, as both sides negotiate the facts on the ground, as they translate a tacit acceptance of the other to a formal recognition of the territorial expression of the other's national identity. The arm twisting will be tough, sometimes violent, always trying, but it has to start.

Hebron is the first test of this hard new phase of negotiations, the most dramatic and substantive test to date of the success of the gradualist Oslo approach to peace-making. According to the logic and young legacy of the Oslo process, it is most likely now that the Israeli settlers will leave Hebron in the same way they entered it — in a slow, phased manner, determined largely by political considerations, embellished with much ideological kicking and screaming, and escorted all the way out by the uniformed and armed soldiers of the state of Israel.

## A faltering hope takes flight

By Jonathan Steele on the Serbs, Croats and Muslims who want Bosnia reintegrated



AS THE clouds of war over Bosnia apparently part for the first time for three years, a new landscape begins to emerge. Sunlit is not the best description. Too much blood has been spilt, too much destruction wrought, too many refugees sent away in despair. But there is at least a prospect of some sort of civil society being rebuilt, in which the common denominator is not fear of one's neighbour, as it has been throughout the undermining of Yugoslavia's multi-ethnic structures and the collapse into war.

Can the new society revive the ethnic tolerance

which once marked Bosnia

out as a beacon of sanity in the Balkans? Or is postwar Bosnia going to be stained indefinitely by the "cleansing"

of the last few years,

brought into patchwork of entities where one nationality has the upper hand? Few people have put those questions as urgently as two delegations of Bosnians in London this week. In separate ways they represented the forgotten people of Bosnia, those who still offer some non-nationalist alternative.

Nationalism encourages war, and in turn is encouraged by it. The two feed on each other, making it hard for dissenters to speak out, and creating a united front where independence can be made to seem treachery.

The presence of the two delegations was a reminder that, even under the centralising pressures of war, politics in Bosnia have not become totally monolithic.

One delegation repre-

sented the Serb Civic Council,

plus the two Croat mem-

bers of the Bosnian presi-

dency. For obvious rea-

sons they have a clear

interest in preventing Bos-

nia becoming a Muslim-

dominated state. The Serbs, in particular, feel

concern. An estimated

150,000 Serbs still live

in the territory now controlled

by the Bosnian govern-

ment. They have never

been part of the statelet run

by Ratko Mladić and Radovan Karadžić, and treat

them as war criminals just

as much as do the non-

Serbs of Bosnia.

At present the Bosnian

government area is de-

scribed as a Muslim-Croat

federation. The arrange-

ment was brokered in

Washington last year, as

the only way to stop fight-

ing between the Croat and

Muslim forces of Bosnia.

The federation has been

remarkably successful in

its primary purpose, but as

a long-term arrangement

it is not the best option, not

least because it excludes the

Serbs of Bosnia.

To widen the options, the

delegation from the Serb

Civic Council favours a

federal system embracing

the whole of Bosnia, in

which Serbs would also

have rights. They do not

specify how those rights

would be made real, whether

on a geographical basis

through cantons as laid

out in the Vance-Owen

plan, or by other means.

Clearly the present system

more about politics or maps, about human rights or land? The different emphasis between the two tendencies reflects a split in the heart of the Bosnian government itself. President Alija Izetbegović is a "maps" man with a closer interest in ethnicity. Haris Silajdžić, the prime minister, is more concerned with the question of the constitution.

Only if the discussion moves beyond politics and human rights is there any hope of preserving a non-nationalist Bosnia. Without it there will be no chance of encouraging the people of the Bosnian Serb entity, the so-called "Republika Srpska," of moving towards reintegration with the rest of Bosnia, rather than cementing their separation and looking towards Belgrade.

One of the more fascinating aspects of the week's unofficial London meetings was the presence of Milorad Dodik, one of eight dissidents in Karadžić's parliament. Meeting Bosnians from the other side of the war divide for the first time for three years, his message was that majority opinion in the Republika Srpska seems more inclined to reintegration with Bosnia — if only it has the chance to express itself, free from the pressures of war and the tyranny of Mladić.

If his analysis is right, it is one more reason why this week's tentative peace around Sarajevo must be followed by a Bosnia-wide ceasefire. The central weakness of this week's Geneva agreement was its silence on the constitutional arrangements for an integrated Bosnia. The plan recognised two existing "entities" under their present constitutions. It said almost nothing about any over-arching institutions. The non-nationalists in London this week rightly stressed that the key issue now is which way the pressures on the negotiators go. Will they be made to think

that the Guardian

publish and regularly update national and, where appropriate, regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change and measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.

— Promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer of technologies, practices and processes to reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of GHGs.

— Promote sustainable management and promote and cooperate

# Latin America now welcomes yesterday's 'imperialists'

By Gabriel Escobar  
and  
Anne Swanson

**THREE DECADES** after the Latin American left led a call against cultural imperialism, targeting the United States as its prime purveyor, South America has unabashedly embraced culture fits.

More and more, the Americas are accepting a universal, homogenized popular culture in which touches of Latin rhythm or Spanish accent a dominant North American diet of songs, words and images.

Conflict over the mass media invasion is rare, save for the occasional volley fired in an academic publication, and in striking contrast to the anguished cries of old battles to preserve cultural identity.

"Cultural imperialism" was a key rallying slogan of the Latin American left in the 1960s. The United States exports its mass culture to Latin America, and all the tools that go with it, the argument went, in hopes of creating a market and furthering its ideology. The flow is one way and insidious, and the casualties are cultural identity and economic independence.

But after many in the left took up arms in the 1970s, the cry for cultural protection was lost on the new battlefield of the next two decades. The failures of the guerrilla movements, the subsequent decline of Cuba's influence, the electoral defeat of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, the collapse of communism, all made the idea of cultural imperialism seem anachronistic, a cold war relic.

Then, as Latin American governments began to adopt free-market economic policies in the last decade, they opened doors to

a new type of American consumerism. Arguably a much stronger version than what had been so feared in the 1960s, this new wave of Yankee influence encountered no opposition.

"On the cultural level, all resistance ended," said Carlos Ares, an author and editor of *La Maga*, an influential literary magazine in Argentina that claims to be the hemisphere's cultural vanguard. "Intellectuals who once were comparatively well-known as rock idols today are barely seen as a minority. There is resignation in every sense."

At the same time, even critics acknowledge that *open markets* have energized and refreshed culture in Latin America. Cable television brings news shows from the United States, Europe and neighbours in the region. Argentines and Chileans, in many ways so different from the rest of Latin America, see and hear Colombians, Mexicans and Peruvians talking on television every night. Brazil, which has always stood somewhat apart because of its different language, sells slick and engrossing television soap operas throughout the region.

The Brazilian entertainer Xuxa has become a hemispheric cultural icon, her children's television show having first spread from Brazil to the rest of Latin America and now into the United States as well. Carlos Vives, a Colombian singer, reinterprets Colombian folk songs, which have become hugely popular in Latin America among Latinos in the United States.

The book "Dreaming in Cuban," by the Cuban-American author Cristina Garcia, was translated into Spanish and sold well in South America; "Like Wa-

ter for Chocolate," by Laura Esquivel of Mexico, became a best-seller in English translation and then was made into a movie; Gabriel García Márquez, joining Brazil's Jorge Amado, made it to Broadway; a new wave of Chilean authors, most of them women, took up academic posts in the United States.

All these examples give weight to the argument that the countries in the continent have always shared aspects of culture, which spread along the Inca Trail, along missionary routes, on the Pan-American Highway, or now via cable and satellite. The Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, a Communist, had on his writing desk a picture of the most democratic of poets, Walt Whitman. Mr. García Márquez has acknowledged his debt to his "master," William Faulkner.

But Mr. Ares, among others, says he believes the current dominance of American culture in the post-cold war world is different. "The world changed in a very short time," he said. "Suddenly, one world fell, and it was absolutely seduced by the world that imposed itself, that won." He added, "in a world without utopias, the market becomes a new utopia."

This view that the culture of consumerism is a type of generic culture, bringing the continent together for worse or better, is buttressed by the spread of huge shopping centres. Alike in design and in content, these free market temples sell the same clothes (Levi's, Nike), serve the same food (Pizza Hut, McDonald's, Taco Bell) and show the same movies. From Santiago to Rio de Janeiro, Bogotá and Mexico City, these centres, in effect, allow people to travel without leaving home

and to feel at home even when travelling.

"You are outside of time," said Mr. Ares, the editor of *La Maga*. "The brands are all the same. It is the extraterritoriality of shopping. You could be outside your own country, but when you enter a shopping centre in the United States, you feel that you're in your own land. The flavor is the same."

The concern of intellectuals here and around the region is that the new mass media are so all-encompassing and their message so strong that they will crowd out everything.

And in a continent where so many are still poor, the mass culture tends to accentuate differences.

As one critic said, it makes a student in Buenos Aires much closer to a counterpart in New York than to someone in a poor province several hundred miles away.

Talk of the information highway as a new cultural link for the region, a hot topic in Latin America these days, is put in perspective by statistics: While the United States boasts 287 computers per 1,000 residents, the highest in the world, Latin America lags far behind. Brazil has only 6 per 1,000; Mexico, a leader.

The effects of advertising and the rise in fast-food stores have had their own impact. In Argentina, annual per capita consumption of wine has fallen in the last 20 years to 42 liters (11 gallons) from 91, mainly because teenagers have turned almost exclusively to beer, a major advertiser. The domestic sale of Argentina's famed beef has declined overall, but demand for ground beef is up, a shift attributed to the

popularity of hamburgers and the flood of U.S. fast-food chains.

"There are so many things that you lose the possibility of choosing one and staying with it," said Andrea Maturana, 26, a Chilean biologist and writer. "People are less trusting, more worried about themselves, more rushed. It makes me sad to see how few people are willing to fight for what they want."

To fight this tide is to choose your battles, as Mr. Ares learned in his short-lived struggle against the English invasion. It may be impossible to prevent "chequenos" from spreading, just as it was impossible in a different age to keep out "OK," a word universally understood throughout Latin America and much of the world.

Advocates of Canadian culture point to the success of such Canadian-based entertainers as Celine Dion, Bryan Adams and Roch Voisine as evidence that there policies nurture talent that otherwise would be buried under the American avalanche. The fine arts and authors of books also have benefited, they say.

Perhaps the best example

of the difficulty involved in striking a balance in this complex debate is Canada, which has struggled with the encroachment of American culture for nearly its entire history, by most measures to no avail. About 95 per cent of films in movie theatres are American; so is 95 per cent of the revenue generated from movies, according to the Canadian Conference on the Arts, a nationalist group.

About 66 per cent of all

books bought, and 80 per

cent of the magazines on

newsstands, are non-

Canadian. American cul-

ture prevails in every corner

of the second-largest country

on Earth: In the Innu

Indian community of Davis

Inlet in northern Labrador,

1,950 kilometres northeast

of Detroit, natives watch

Detroit television stations

received by satellite.

This penetration con-

tinues despite rules, re-

quirements, protections

and subsidies designed to preserve Canadian culture.

The measures also are exempted from the North American Free Trade Agreement among the United States, Canada and Mexico (and possibly Chile soon). The United States cannot bring an unfair-trade case to the treaty's arbitrators against those cultural protections, although it is allowed to retaliate against them.

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Enforcing cultural protections often is a complex matter, however, and can lead to trade capitulation at home. The government late last year said it would place an 80 per cent excise tax on Sports Illustrated Canada, a spinoff edition of the American magazine that featured a few Canadian articles along with the American ones, and lots of Canadian ads. U.S. officials have threatened retaliation if the proposal becomes law, as predicted later this year.

Canadian officials say these issues probably will become more prevalent in other countries as technology speeds the spread of American cultural products around the world. With an eye to adopting similar strategies, other nations, some of them in Latin America, have asked the Canadian ministry that deals with cultural protection to explain its policies. Still, with the tendency in Latin America to deregulate rather than regulate, Canada's protectionist

model appears far off.

"I believe in cosmopolitanism. I believe in universalism. I believe in tolerance as a value. And I also believe in cultural differences," said Alicia R.W. Camilloni, secretary of academic affairs at the University of Buenos Aires. "The question is, how do you administer cultural conflicts, and how do you produce a process of integration?"

In a hemisphere where the poor and the silent are the majority, old traditions are sometimes overwhelmed by the cacophony of the new, but that does not always mean they are weak or even fading. They just may not be heard.

"Something else will come out of this," said Mr. Ares of the vast number of people whose voices are seldom heard because they are outside the cities. "Something will happen with these masses on the other side of the meat. I don't think it is something that can be communicated through television, and I don't think it will be easy when millions want to be heard."

And even in cities, there is room for new voices. Miss Maturana, the literary sensation in Chile, has become a role model for a generation that perhaps watches too much MTV Latino but still is capable of recognising a native talent, a new voice.

"You take a different step from the rest, and they convert you into a celebrity, and they demand you be a celebrity," she said. "I think perhaps there is a shortage of role models, and for some reason they identify with me, even though I don't feel at all representative."

International Herald Tribune

tion battle behind them, is a growing inferiority complex among newspapers towards the real force in the Italian media, television.

It is perhaps no accident that videos are the promotional vehicle of choice — they enable papers to transmit their very own images, just like Silvio Berlusconi and the state broadcaster RAI.

In one way, *L'Unità* and *La Repubblica* are directly imitating Mr. Berlusconi, who has for years been using popular feature films to attract viewers to his three private stations. Mr. Berlusconi's other output is largely lurid drivel to pass the time in between advertising breaks and puffs for his political ambitions.

Some mainstream newspapers already have edged downmarket in an attempt to shore up declining circulation figures; they will have to be careful that promotion mania does not drag them slowly into the gutter.

The real reason for the give-aways, and the circula-

## ROME DAYS

### Gifts galore and all the news fit to print

By Andrew Gumbel

LIKE MOST journalists, I have an unmanageable pile of old newspapers sitting in one corner of the living-room, seemingly reproducing all by themselves and threatening, like the monster cake-mix that spills over the baking tin and out of the kitchen in Woody Allen's *Sleeper*, to take on a sinister life of their own.

These days, though, I am rapidly building up a second, even more unmanageable pile of encyclopedic extracts, medical dictionaries, video cassettes of classic Italian films and any number of gimmicks, games and educational experiences. This is the junk — some of it welcome, some of it not — that is part and parcel of the promotion-crazy Italian press these days.

The Italian newspaper market is hurting (perhaps not as badly as the British market, but still hurting), and this extraordinary profusion of give-aways is the result. Thus, thanks to the *Zanichelli* encyclopedia and the Saturday edition of *L'Unità*,

is the party newspaper of the left-wing PDS, I now have my very own copies of Pasolini's *Decameron*, Antonioni's *Blow Up* (dubbed into Italian, but then you can't have it all) and any number of glorious comedies starring the likes of Totò, Alberto Sordi, Vittorio Gassman and Roberto Benigni.

Thanks to the more business-minded *Corriere della Sera* of Milan, I have seen more than I will ever need to know about the labyrinthine world of Italian personal finance, pension plans and job opportunities, and can look forward to a future of confusion at the hands of their in-house encyclopedia, co-sponsored by a state-owned bank, the telephone company and the railway company.

To cap them all, though, I can turn to *La Repubblica*, which recently lost its position as Italy's best-selling newspaper to *Il Corriere*, and is now anxious to win it back. Three times a week I receive extracts of the *Zanichelli* encyclopedia and can wow my

friends with such trivia as the name of the architect of those nobby bits on the top of the Chrysler building in New York: W. Van Allen.

Then on Thursdays there is the rock and music supplement *Musica*, while on Fridays there are more videos, this time of American films. Last week it was Woody Allen's *Radio Days*, this week Steven Spielberg's mega-flop *Hook*. *La Repubblica's* sister publication, the magazine *L'Espresso*, also has jumped on the video bandwagon with a series entitled "Forbidden Classics."

It's a curious kind of circulation battle. In Britain, newspapers have cut their prices; in Italy, the prices actually go up on days when there are goodies on offer.

*L'Unità*, for example, costs 6,000 lire (\$2.40), or four times its usual cover price, when it has a film to give away. The strategy obviously works in one sense, because circulation goes up by as much as 50 per cent, depending on the newspaper and the gimmick involved.

The real reason for the give-aways, and the circula-

tion battle behind them, is a growing inferiority complex among newspapers towards the real force in the Italian media, television.

It is perhaps no accident that videos are the promotional vehicle of choice — they enable papers to transmit their very own images, just like Silvio Berlusconi and the state broadcaster RAI.

A recent edition of his publication "give away" a free journalist with every copy, offering to help readers with the shopping or the housework. "What will they come up with next?" Mr. Alois added. "Potatoes by the kilo? A right shoe one week and a left shoe the next?"

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The real reason for the give-aways, and the circula-

rights of the city's Palestinians.

The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the occupied territories, also known as Betselem, said in a report Israel had failed during nearly 30 years of occupation to protect Hebron's Palestinian settlers in the city would only exacerbate human rights violations.

President Arafat said that despite the flexibility shown by the Palestinian side to reach an accepted solution, the Israeli side has not come up with acceptable proposals, the statement said.

After the cabinet meeting, Samir Gosheh, the PNA labour minister, told reporters: "There will be no signings."

A similar statement was made Monday by Mr. Peres to Israel's army radio.

"I think that on Thursday there won't be a signing," Mr. Peres said. "I made all the efforts that could have been made, (but) we are not pressured by time."

Mr. Murayama promised another \$200 million in aid to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). Tokyo has already donated \$200 million.

Betselem urges the government of Israel to dismantle the settlement in the city of Hebron and remove Israeli security forces from the city.

The group said in a report entitled "impossible co-existence."

An Israeli rights group on Monday urged the government to remove Jewish settlers from Hebron, saying this would safeguard the

rights of the city's Palestinians.

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Palestinians moved municipal offices into a building next to a downtown Jewish seminary in Hebron on Monday.

## Japan reaffirms commitment

(Continued from page 1)

The King "reviewed" (events in) the one year after Jordan and Israel signed their peace treaty and affirmed that things are moving steadily and very rapidly," said the source.

Addressing a press conference shortly before he left at the end of a seven-day, five-country visit to the Middle East, Mr. Murayama reaffirmed his country's commitment to hacking the Middle East peace process.

# Economy

## Experts divided over which way dollar, yen will go

TOKYO (Agencies) — Will the dollar go up or down? even the experts can't agree.

The correct answer could mean huge profits or losses for everyone from large electronics companies that depend on export earnings to institutional investors trying to make money for mom-and-pop pensioners.

As the U.S. currency has risen in recent weeks to 15-month highs against the Japanese yen, currency traders, financial analysts and company executives have increasingly argued over whether the rise will continue.

"A lot of movement depends on factors that are very hard to predict, like what the central banks are going to do, or what monthly reports are going to say," Dan O'Keefe, a market analyst at Merrill Lynch, said Monday.

Traders' time frame is "days, if not hours, so it's really hard to say how they are going to push the currency," he added.

The dollar Monday was hovering near 104 yen, with traders saying they were unsure whether to believe financial officials of Germany, Japan and the United States who say they want the dollar to keep rising.

A survey by the Japan Centre for International Finance, a market analysis company, showed that experts at 43 stock brokerages, financial firms and manufacturing companies were split on where the dollar would be six months from now, accord-

ing to reports Monday.

The survey, conducted last week as the dollar rose, found that some believed the dollar would fall to 90 yen by December, while others were predicting a rise to 110.

That 20-yen gap, equivalent to less than 20 cents at Monday's exchange rates, may not sound like much. But on currency markets, the dollar is said to "soar" or "plunge" when it moves just one yen.

And, perhaps even more important for Japan's economy, the difference between a dollar worth 90 and 110 yen is the difference between profit and loss for a large number of Japanese companies.

A recent survey by the Nibon Keizai Shinbun, the most widely read economic daily, showed Japan's export industries — which often determine the health of the economy — could break even with the dollar at just over 95 yen.

When the dollar sank below 80 yen in April, a historic low, virtually every Japanese exporter said it could not make a profit, because sales made overseas would be worthless few yen.

The exporters try to protect themselves against fluctuations by buying currency futures, but buying those futures is an exercise in trying to predict where the currencies will go.

With the experts disagreeing, those predictions get very difficult.

"Everyone is wavering,"

said Tomohiro Aoki of the finance centre, who generally confirmed the reports about the survey.

"The market sentiment is for the dollar to keep rising... but the structural issues, such as the U.S. savings rate and Japan's current account surplus, haven't changed," he said.

Meanwhile, Japan's chief cabinet secretary Koken Nosaka Monday welcomed the dollar's recent gains against the yen but said the Japanese government would like to see the U.S. currency appreciate further.

"I think 108 yen is a yardstick," the official government spokesman told a news conference. "The trade minister says 108 yen is the break-even point for small and medium-sized companies."

Tomio Tsutsumi, vice minister at the international trade and industry ministry, later said that exchange rates were still in the process of reversal.

"We have not set a target, but we can say that the yen is still in a turnaround against the dollar," he told a regular news conference, denying that Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto wanted to see the dollar at 108 yen.

"There have been reports earlier that chief cabinet secretary Nosaka wants the dollar at 108 yen, but 108 yen was simply the break-even point for small and mid-sized companies according to our research," Mr. Tsutsumi said.

## Japan trade surplus falls again

TOKYO (R) — Japan's giant trade surplus shrank in August for the second straight month and, seeing the unexpected drop, delighted officials forecast that the much-welcomed declining trend was likely to continue.

The finance ministry announced Monday that the nation's customs-cleared trade surplus fell in August to \$5.97 billion from a revised \$6.05 billion the same month last year, and also fell against the July figure of \$9.43 billion.

Exports rose 12.6 per cent to \$35.22 billion and imports grew 15.9 per cent to \$29.26 billion.

Tokyo's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States fell to \$2.94 billion from \$3.48 billion a year earlier, dropping for the

third month in a row.

The figures were well below the expectations of private economists, who had predicted the surplus would actually rise to between \$6.1 billion and \$8.0 billion.

Economists had expected the surplus to increase due to sluggish crude oil imports and a rebound in car exports, along with the lingering effects of the strong yen.

The surplus had shrunk sharply in July as the strong yen started to take its toll on exports, narrowing to \$9.43 billion from \$12.43 a year earlier. A yen rise slows down Japanese exports, because the strong yen inflates the prices of Japanese goods in terms of foreign currencies, and makes them less competitive.

But in fact, the August

trade figures showed stronger growth in imports than in exports.

"The export figure was low, lower than expected, perhaps on lower demand in the United States. But it is hard to see if this is the start of a trend without seeing what happens next month," said Hideyoshi Tsuchiya of Sanwa Research Institute.

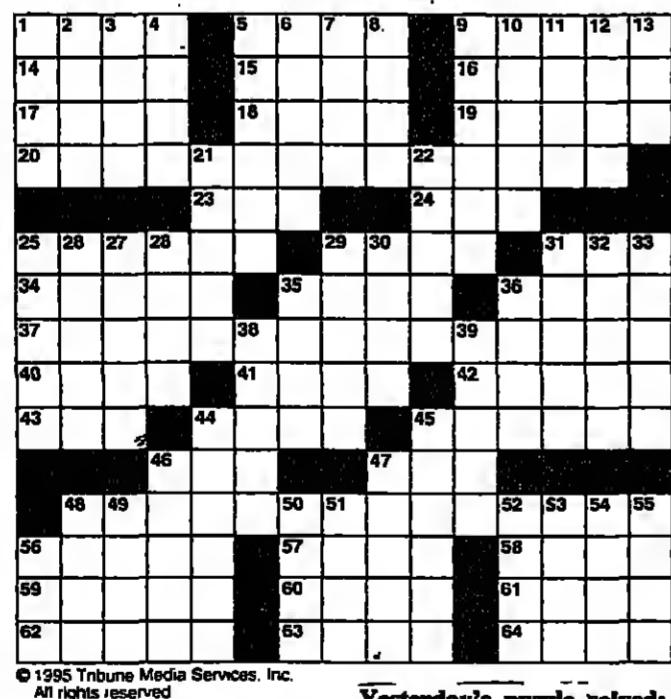
The finance ministry was more optimistic that the trade surplus was on the decline.

"Japan's trade surplus is on a declining trend. I hope the surplus will narrow further with the steady implementation of government steps, like the package of measures to stem the yen's rise announced in April," a finance ministry official told reporters.

## THE Daily Crossword by Frank L. Jackson

**ACROSS**

- Disappear gradually
- 5 Iridescent gem
- 9 Fragment
- 14 In — (bored by sameness)
- 15 Gumshoe's concern
- 16 Bara of old movies
- 17 Stead
- 18 London gallery
- 19 Prepared
- 20 Gourmet salad fruits
- 23 Single
- 24 Intuitive lattars
- 25 Work by Swift, e.g.
- 29 Precludes
- 31 Bikini section
- 34 Hold tight
- 35 Bounces over water
- 36 Crooked
- 37 Pogo the possum's milieu
- 40 Fire; pret.
- 41 Consumer
- 42 Reef builder
- 43 Overhead railways
- 44 Luge
- 45 Moon goddess
- 46 Collod
- 47 Sty
- 48 Insincere weeping
- 56 Large herbivora
- 57 Footnote word
- 58 Sugar source
- 59 Inject animation
- 60 Breakfast, e.g.
- 61 Spoken
- 62 Mortimer the dummy
- 63 — Rider
- 64 — contendere



Yesterday's puzzle solved:

HERR	STEM	EFLAT
ALOE	TARE	NIECE
IVAN	ARIA	TRAIN
FIREBRA	ANDRENDS	
ASSERT	EPEE	
SHAFT	USNA	SEAMAN
SOLIC	CROAT	ERIC
TISAR	HANS	FREAK
SERENE	ETAL	
SURE	RETEST	
SCOTT	FIREDRAKE	
HUMOR	ROAN	IGOR
ATAR	ETTA	CLAN
DERMA	MASS	EELS

**DOWN**

- 1 FDR's dog
- 2 Seed cover
- 3 Sword fight
- 4 Small case
- 5 Motor fuel word
- 6 Dish
- 7 Self; pref.
- 8 Suggestive gaze
- 9 Accent
- 10 Tawdry
- 11 Raise
- 12 Totals
- 13 Wages
- 21 Deep ravine
- 22 Intrinsically
- 25 Hange
- 26 Certain chemical
- 27 Rows
- 28 Pertinent data
- 29 Made a pie
- 30 Mimic
- 31 Strident sound
- 32 Nose or candle
- 33 Winsap, for one
- 35 Ply with medicine
- 36 Truant
- 38 Certain card game term
- 39 Fragrance
- 40 First also-ran?
- 45 Handsome
- 46 Hopeless one
- 47 Entrances
- 48 Chatter
- 49 Tear apart forcibly
- 50 Coin
- 51 Brainchild
- 52 Poetically black
- 53 Of flying
- 54 Genuine
- 55 French town
- 56 Literary monogram

## Egyptian reserves in biggest fall for four years

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's massive foreign reserves, the pride of its economic reform programme, have slipped by between \$300 million and \$400 million since the middle of the year, a source in the central bank said Sunday.

It is the biggest fall in foreign reserves since the government floated the Egyptian pound in October 1991. At that time they stood at a little over \$3 billion.

Foreign exchange dealers gave different explanations — the narrowing gap between dollar and Egyptian pound interest rates, an increase in imports, or residual concern that the government might engineer a devaluation.

The reserves stood at between \$18.2 billion and \$18.3 billion at the end of June

1995. By about Aug. 20, they had fallen to \$17.9 billion, the source said, quoting central bank figures.

In practice people with Egyptian deposits have fared well over the years, losing an average of less than half of one per cent a year to exchange rate slippage.

The dealers said the equation had changed as dollar interest rates rose and Egyptian rates fell. Banks are paying depositors nine to 10 per cent on pounds and 5.5 per cent on dollars.

"At those rates people don't think it's worth the risk to bring more dollars in," one dealer said.

"We have had a steady stream of people switching into dollars. They can't be

sure what the government is going to do with the pound," said another.

"There was a rumour that the pound would fall to 4.5 (pounds to the dollar) by the end of the year. It doesn't look like it will happen but it's taken a toll," he added.

The pound has survived a succession of devaluation scares, prompted often by the imminence of talks between the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF has argued, so far to no avail, that the strength of the pound — now at 3.4 to the dollar against 3.31 in 1991 — is obstructing the govern-

ment's campaign to promote exports.

The government has argued back with figures showing steady growth in non-oil exports. These doubled in value in the first quarter of this year, to \$2,159 million pounds (\$635 million), against 1,081 million (\$318 million) in the same period of 1994.

But the cost of imports has been increasing faster, adding to the country's chronic trade deficit.

Despite the fall, the reserves remain enough to cover more than 20 months of imports — way above the minimum safety level.

## World Bank discussing debt forgiveness for poorest countries

WASHINGTON (AP) — World Bank officials are discussing a possible multibillion-dollar pool to help pay off some of the \$30.5 billion owed by the world's poorest countries to international bodies.

The bulk of the help would go to Africa.

A bank statement said a plan had been drawn up for informal discussions by the bank, the International Monetary Fund and other institutions.

Officials estimated that only some poor countries would benefit from a debt-reduction plan, since it would apply only to from 10 to 15 governments that are carrying out satisfactory plans to put their finances in order.

The statement was issued in response to a report in the Financial Times of London that said a \$11 billion fund was being proposed by the bank to pay off \$400 million a year of principal and interest over the first five years and smaller amounts afterwards.

The bank said the proposal being discussed does not represent official bank policy or the views of its new president, James Wolfensohn.

"Mr. Wolfensohn has repeatedly made it clear that he wants the bank to take a tough look at whether there are feasible options for multi-

One source with knowledge of the proposal said it did not call for direct debt forgiveness by the bank and fund, which have a long-standing policy of not writing off debt. But if they contributed to the planned pool, they would, in effect, be paying off some of the debt to themselves.

The region's overall figures were greatly influenced by the financial crisis in Mexico

## U.N. agency sees slower growth, higher unemployment in L. America

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Latin America's global economic growth in 1995 will stay below two per cent, down from 3.6 per cent the year before, a United Nations agency has said.

It noted, however, that "the crisis did not spread to the rest of the nations in the region."

The Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLA), said that as a result of the slower growth, 1995 will also show higher rates of unemployment throughout the region.

On the bright side, the Santiago-based ECLA reported firm progress in the fight against inflation and predicted the first regional trade surplus in a decade.

The report is based on the first half of the year economic performances by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, which account for nearly 90 per cent of the region's gross national product (GNP). Some data from other countries was also considered.

The region's overall figures were greatly influenced by the financial crisis in Mexico

One source with knowledge of the proposal said it did not call for direct debt forgiveness by the bank and fund, which have a long-standing policy of not writing off debt. But if they contributed to the planned pool, they would, in effect, be paying off some of the debt to themselves.

The region's overall figures were greatly influenced by the financial crisis in Mexico

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumble: GUESS SUAVE LIMPID TAUGHT  
Answer: Why the dinosaur hunter liked his work — HE DUG THE PAST

(Answers tomorrow)

## HOROSCOPE

### FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get your duties handled early this morning and later today show patience when others expect big things of you.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Go to the beauty or barber shop of your choice early today and then get at your duties in a calm and poised fashion.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Get the situation at home righted before you put some talent to work, even though the problem may arise with it.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Handle your outside business affairs well before you try to handle that situation at home this evening.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get your budget in order before you go out to handle some problematical affair today, and be skilled at it.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You are concerned with the self this morning, and rightly so, and you can go after personal aims and get them.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) This is a good morning to plan for the future, but tonight you may run up against stumbling blocks in the path of your progress.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You can get after the personal wishes which mean much to you this morning, and get good results. Show your mate you are loyal.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get at your career activities early since later today you will have to handle personal problems. Don't expect much help from friends.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Try a new way to gain a cherished wish and later today handle some worldly affair most carefully.

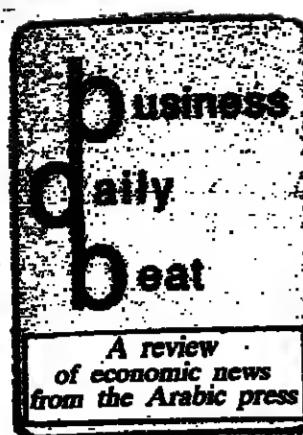
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Try to find some way of getting the one you love to be more interested in you. Make sure to pay your bill on time.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) An associate can give you fine suggestions today, so listen carefully to them. Improve relations with your mate.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1995



## Draft '95 companies law 'scraps routine, simplifies procedures'

**THE COUNCIL** of Ministers is debating a draft companies law to replace a temporary 1989 law and which is considered as a supplement to the economic package of laws approved recently. The comptroller of companies said the draft law had clarified and detailed some ambiguities in the 1989 law and widened the authority of the comptroller and of the Free Zones Corporation which was permitted to register companies without referring to the ministry. The comptroller indicated that the draft legislation has eliminated much of administrative routine and simplified the measures to transfer public sector institutions to the private sector to operate on commercial basis. Furthermore, he said, the draft law included large procedural facilities for merging companies and for transferring them from limited liability companies to joint partnership or public shareholding companies. Also included was the granting of wider authorities to boards of directors as well as establishing a new post of "trust manager" who is defined as the person who represents a bank or a financial company engaged in managing share and stock issues and debenture bonds (Al Ra'i).

**WITH LESS** than three months from the date of signing a trade cooperation protocol between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, the volume of commercial contracts between the two sides have reached JD 32.3 million until the beginning of this month. Contracts signed in June and July amounted to JD 16.3 million, but in August alone, the volume shot up to JD 16 million. Jordanian exports to the Palestinian self-rule areas were palm oil, cement and school textbooks for a total amount of JD 3.8 million. Palestinian exports amounted to JD 28.5 million and comprised large quantities of fruits, electrical tools, binding rods, honey, ghee, onions, building stones and soap (Al Aswag).

**THE TRAFFIC** Department collected about JD 5 million from traffic violations during the first eight months of this year (Al Ra'i).

**THE MUNICIPALITY** of Greater Amman has spent about JD 1 million on building pavements and sidewalks since the beginning of this year at various locations in Amman (Al Ra'i).

**A PROJECT** to build refrigerated storage facilities at the shipping area of the Queen Alia International Airport will be carried out soon and will be completed in the coming few months. The facilities, which will be used to ship fruits and vegetables to world countries, are expected to cost JD 218,000. The storage facilities will cover a 2,800 square metre area and will have a capacity to handle between 600 and 800 tonnes (Al Ra'i).

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**A FOREIGN** company has been cleaning the city of Petra for the past two weeks after being contracted to do that job continually by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. This step had been taken in light of the increased number of tourists and to safeguard the health and environmental aspects in addition to the antiquities (Al Dustour).

**THE MINISTRY** of Energy and Mineral Resources is cooperating with the Aqaba Regional Authority to select a suitable site to set up tanks and other installations necessary for building a complex for importing natural gas from Qatar (Al Dustour).

## BNP to close offshore branch in Morocco

**TANGIER, MOROCCO** (R) — Moroccan hopes of turning an offshore zone in the northern city of Tangier into the Hong Kong of North Africa has suffered a blow when a French bank announced plans to close its branch there.

A French Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) official told Reuters by telephone the decision was made because of stagnant business and unclear prospects at the financial centre.

He said that BNP would close down in January 1996, less than three years after opening in the Tangier branch in September 1993, but the official said the offshore centre did not meet expectations.

"Our activity has been hampered by competition from local banks ... as BNP offshore business was showing a deficit curve, a decision was made to close the subsidiary in Tangier," the BNP banker said.

Mr. Amiar wrote that industrial development was also stagnant and many plants set up since 1992 were up for sale.

Tangier was particularly affected by the drought this year. Several plants had to operate below capacity because of the water shortage this summer.

Tangier used to be a thriving international zone before Morocco became independent in 1956. Dozens of banks and money-changers used to operate in Tangier but most of them left when the area was integrated into the kingdom.

## Leo Burnett expands in M.E., Eastern Europe

**LONDON** (R) — Advertising agency Leo Burnett Worldwide Inc. has said it was expanding its operations in central and eastern Europe and the Middle East, with plans to add 11 new agencies over the next 12 months.

Kerry Ruhie, group president for the Europe/Middle East/Africa region, said two of Leo Burnett's multi-national clients — consumer products firm Procter Gamble and tobacco maker Philip Morris — are the greatest drivers behind the agency's expansion into new markets.

As major clients move into new markets, Leo Burnett is working in order to meet their advertising needs.

"Procter Gamble and Philip Morris have the greatest impact," Mr. Ruhie told Reuters. "They're by far the most aggressive groups that we're working with."

**Financial Markets** in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close		Tokyo Close Date 18/9/95
	Date 15/9/95	16/9/95	
Sterling Pound	1.5500	1.5457**	
Deutsche Mark	1.4888	1.4909	
Swiss Franc	1.2065	1.2066**	
French Franc	5.1190	5.1211**	
Japanese Yen	104.13	104.10	
European Currency Unit	1.2595	1.2604**	

\*\* Bid vs. Ask  
\*\*\* Opening & End L.M. CMT

Euro-Currency Interest Rates Date: 18/9/1995

Currency	Interest Rates			
	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.47	6.43	6.45
Deutsche Mark	3.93	3.93	3.93	4.00
Swiss Franc	2.68	2.62	2.62	2.62
French Franc	5.82	5.85	5.83	5.80
Japanese Yen	0.37	0.35	0.37	0.40
European Currency Unit	5.37	5.38	5.38	5.40

Interest rate for amount exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Practices Metals Date: 18/9/1995

Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm
Gold	345.10	7.50	Silver	5.47	0.120

\* 14 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 18/9/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7109	0.7160
Sterling Pound	1.1075	1.1127
Deutsche Mark	0.4797	0.4821
Swiss Franc	0.5911	0.5941
French Franc	0.1396	0.1403
Japanese Yen	0.6171	0.6195
Dutch Guilder	0.4281	0.4300
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

\* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 18/9/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Egyptian Dinar	1.8130	1.8155
Lebanese Lira*	0.043645	0.044550
Saudi Riyal	0.1904	0.1920
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.8150	0.8155
Qatari Riyal	0.1954	0.1967
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2160
Oman Riyal	1.5505	1.5590
UAE Dirham	0.1943	0.1953
Greek Drachma*	0.1865	0.1950
Cypriot Pound	1.5035	1.5150

\* Per 100

## Beirut Stock Exchange to reopen Monday — official

**ABEIRUT** (R) — The Beirut Stock Exchange's frequently delayed reopening will take place next Monday, an official of the prime minister's office said Monday.

The official was speaking after a meeting between stock exchange chairman Gabriel Schaeoni and Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri to discuss the reopening.

Mr. Schaeoni was not immediately available for comment but another stock exchange official said Mr. Hariri was pressing for the reopening.

The regulations are being studied by a judge of the Council of State, Lebanon's highest court, and must also be approved by the cabinet before the exchange can open, Mr. Schaeoni said.

"Hariri is insisting we open on the 25th. We are having another meeting tonight with the prime minister to discuss the logistics of the reopening," the official told Reuters.

Senior officials of the Paris Bourse and the French government, which have helped to design and finance the computerised trading floor,

are due to visit the market next Monday for the first price-fixing session.

Mr. Schaeoni had aimed to reopen the market this Monday after a 12-year shutdown, but he said last week he was still awaiting approval of its new internal regulations by judicial and political authorities.

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## AC Milan remain unbeaten; PSG lose 1st match

**ROME** (Agencies) — Liberian-born striker George Weah tallied once in each half to AC Milan to a 2-1 win over AS Roma Sunday night, keeping race with Juventus of Turin atop the Italian first division.

After Argentine international Abel Balbo gave Roma the lead off a free kick in the 15th minute, Weah took advantage of a defensive lapse to equalise in first-half injury time and then scored the game-winner in the 77th.

Milan improved to 3-0-0 in the league, same as defending champion Juventus, which earlier Sunday defeated Vicenza 1-0 on Gianluca Vialli's first-half goal.

Juve, which has opened the season against three promoted clubs, and Milan have won two matches in cup play for perfect records overall. The Turin side leads in the Serie A standing on goal differential.

Lazio of Rome lost its share of first place in a 3-3 draw at Bari as the home side's Igor Protti scored three times to take over the league scoring lead with five goals.

AC Parma, expected to challenge for the title, suffered a 3-0 loss at Sampdoria of Genoa and slid to 1-1-1.

Atalanta of Bergamo also fell from the ranks of the unbeaten in a 3-1 loss to Napoli, which shares second place with Lazio.

In other matches: Fiorentina beat Cagliari 3-1; Inter of Milan drew 0-0 with Piacenza; Udinese edged Cremonese 3-2; and Padova and Torino drew 1-1.

**Milan 2, Rome 1:** At Rome, where Roma has not beaten Milan since 1985, the hosts dominated the early going and Balbo — whose 22 goals last season were second in the league — fired in a low drive from the left side on the penalty area for the lead.

But an error on the stroke of halftime by Roma captain Giuseppe Giannini, playing his 300th Serie A match,

allowed Milan to draw level. Thinking the ball had crossed the end-line, and waiting for the referee to stop the action, Giannini watched motionless as Montenegrin playmaker Dejan Savicevic passed to an open Weah, who scored from 8 metres.

Weah, acquired in the offseason from Paris St. Germain, then hit his third of the season, breaking into the open and dribbling past Brazilian defender Aldair before putting the ball through the legs of charging goalkeeper Giovanni Cervone.

**Juventus 1, Vicenza 0:** At Turin, Vialli hammered a low drive from close range in the 21st minute for his third goal in two matches. Vicenza (1-2-2) clogged its backfield in a successful attempt at slowing Juve's attack, which had 15 goals in four prior matches.

**Bari 3, Lazio 3:** At Bari, Protti — who has all of his club's five goals this season — scored off headers in the eighth and 49th minutes and off an individual run in the 14th to stake the hosts to a 3-1 lead. Dutch winger Aron Winter had deposited a loose ball in the 43rd for Lazio (2-1-0).

The Romans, playing with just 10 men after the 45th-minute expulsion of rookie defender Geronimo Gattardi, rallied for the draw behind Croatian striker Alen Bokšić. Pierluigi Casiraghi converted Bokšić's precise feed in the 56th, and Italian international striker Giuseppe Signori levelled the score three minutes later from the penalty spot after the Croat was fouled. Bari is 0-2-1.

**Sampdoria 3, Parma 0:** At Genua, where Parma has not beaten Sampdoria (1-2-0) since 1991, midfielder Christian Karembeu scored twice. Karembeu, from new Caldonia, redirected veteran forward Roberto Mancini's cross in the 21st minute, and then doubled in the 73rd, running

on to forward Claudio Bellucci's low pass. Bellucci's header made it 3-0 one minute from time.

**Napoli 3, Atalanta 1:** At Bergamo, Napoli (2-1-0) rallied from an early deficit on the strength of domination at midfield. Christian Vieri beaded in a goal in the second minute to put Atalanta (1-1-1) ahead.

But forward Renato Buso equalised in the 30th, slamming the ball in off the post, and striker Carmelo Imbrioni made it 2-1 for Napoli off French midfielder Alain Boghossian's cross in the 63rd. Forward Massimo Agostini's second goal of the season iced the match in the 74th.

**Florentina 3, Cagliari 1:** At Florence, forward Francesco Baiano's goals in the second and 15th minutes — off assists from Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta and Portuguese midfielder Rai Costa — sent Fiorentina (2-0-1) to its sixth straight home win over Cagliari (0-0-3).

In the 17th, Fiorentina stopper Lorenzo Amoruso's own goal allowed Cagliari to get within 2-1, but he redeemed himself by scoring off a rebound just four minutes later. Cagliari is the only Serie A team with three losses after three rounds.

**Udinese 3, Cremonese 2:** At Udine, all the scoring came in the second half, with the hosts rapid-firing three goals in eight minutes and then holding on for the win. German striker Oliver Bierhoff directed a fine lob by strike Robert Pires in the 29th minute, banding Monaco their third defeat after nine rounds.

**Cremonese (0-1-2)** came back behind Riccardo Maspéro's penalty kick in the 76th and Slovenian winger Matjaz Florijancic's goal

three minutes later.

**Inter of Milan 0, Piacenza 0:** At Milan, Inter's woeful attack could not generate opportunities against the League-worst defense of Piacenza (0-1-2). Inter is 1-1-1.

**Padova 1, Torino 1:** At Padua, Dutch midfielder Michel Kreck equalised for the hosts (0-1-2) in the 36th minute. Midfielder Antonio Bernardini's left-footed drive from the edge of the penalty area had put Torino (1-1-1) up after 14 minutes.

**PSG stomp to first defeat**

In Paris, Paris St Germain stumbled to their first defeat of the season after an own goal from international defender Bruno N'Gotty on Sunday but stayed top of the French soccer league.

### EUROPEAN SOCCER

There was little N'Gotty could do to avoid scoring against his own side in the 18th minute in Montpellier, who won 1-0.

Montpellier, who dominated throughout, launched a lightning move on the right wing, leaving Christophe Sanchez alone in front of the Parisian box. Sanchez powerful shot hit the post, bounced on N'Gotty's chest and into the goal.

Despite the defeat, the Parisians, who had won their six previous matches, retained the lead on 20 points, second-placed Metz have 19 points.

Metz beat Monaco 1-0 in the principality on Saturday and were left as the only unbeaten side in the League after nine rounds.

Metz scored through a fine lob by strike Robert Pires in the 29th minute, banding Monaco their third defeat after nine rounds.

The team from the principality, who had to field their fourth goalkeeper this season after an injury jinx depleted the team, lost to PSG in the league and to Leeds United in the UEFA Cup last week.

Lens scored a convincing 3-1 win against Bastia in Sunday's games and shot to third in the standings on 18 points.

Paris St. Germain's disappointment at their defeat may have been tempered by the news that key striker Patrice Loko, the league's leading marksman last season, scored his first goal with PSG's reserve team on Sunday.

Loko has been receiving psychiatric treatment for the past two months after he destroyed cars and attacked policemen as he was coming out of a disco.

Nottingham Forest top Everton

Nottingham Forest defeated Everton 3-2 in Sunday's

only Premier League match on first-half goals by Dave Watson and Jason Lee and a clincher in the second half by Ian Woan.

The victory gave Nottingham Forest nine points and kept team undefeated this season with two victories and four draws for 10 points.

Newcastle and Manchester United, coming off wins on Saturday, lead the premier league with 15 points.

Watson scored for Nottingham Forest in the 17th minute and teammate Lee made it 2-0 in the 20th.

Everton's Paul Rideout scored his first of two goals to cut the lead to 2-1 in the 60th minute, but Woan got the winner in the 64th to make it 3-1. Rideout scored his second with 10 minutes left to play.

Everton made a last-minute charge to tie the match when substitute Stuart

Barlow was denied on an 88th-minute equaliser by Mark Crossley's alert save.

The loss left Everton with seven points.

In the first division, Barnsley and Sheffield United played a 2-2 draw, and West Brom defeated Birmingham 1-0.

Welsh international Nathan Blake saved Sheffield United with two goals in the second half to salvage the 2-2 draw. Steve Davis put Barnsley ahead 1-0 in the 9th minute and Alan Kelly made it 2-0 in the 35th.

Alan Hunt scored in the 29th minute for West Brom to give them 15 points, two behind league leaders Millwall and Leicester.

Oviedo upset Real Madrid

In Madrid, Antonio Rivas made a long strike early in the second half Sunday to give Oviedo a 3-2 victory over Real Madrid and hand the defending champion its second surprise upset in two weeks.

On the other side of town, Atletico de Madrid fans had a pleasant surprise as their club held the league's top spot for the second straight week — after a four year hiatus — following its Saturday 2-0 victory at Athletic de Bilbao.

Last season's top scorer, Chilean Ivan Zamorano, did his best for Real Madrid's home crowd scoring in the game's first minute on a centering pass from Jose Amavizca. Oviedo's Oliverio 'oli' Alvarez fed it up eight minutes later.

Zamorano came back with a second goal on a pass from new acquisition Freddy Rincon of Colombia a half hour into the game but Alvarez tied it up again one minute before the end of the first half.

Three minutes into the second half, Rivas won the game for Oviedo in spectacular

Surin wins 100, 200 metres

KOBE (AP) — Canadian Bruny Surin won both the men's 100-and 200-metre dashes, beating American Dennis Mitchell by about one-quarter second each time Sunday in the Kobe International Track and Field meet.

Surin won the 100 in 10.11 seconds to 10.36 by Mitchell. On Friday, he had run 10.02 but placed second at that distance behind Britain's Lincoln Christie (10.00) in the Toto International super meet in Tokyo.

He took the 200 here in 20.42, with Mitchell second in 20.70.

American Mark Crear won the 110-metre hurdles in 13.37 seconds.

In the men's 800 metres, Hicham El Guerroui of Morocco won in 1 minute, 50.16 seconds, his second victory in three days in Japan. He won the 1,500 metres in 3:40.96 at the Toto meet.

Khalid Boulaiki of Morocco won the 5,000 metres in 13:31.35.

Baseball-Major League results

American League

Boston	9	Cleveland	6
Texas	5	Detroit	0
Baltimore	2	New York	0
Toronto	5	Milwaukee	0
Chicago	2	Seattle	1
Kansas City	10	California	8
Oakland	4	Minnesota	1

National League

Houston	5	Montreal	3
Pittsburgh	5	San Francisco	4
New York	8	Philadelphia	2
Los Angeles	8	St. Louis	0
Florida	17	Colorado	0
San Diego	11	Chicago	3
Atlanta	4	Cincinnati	1

National Football League results

Buffalo	20	Indianapolis	14
St. Louis	31	Carolina	18
Arizona	20	Detroit	17
Green Bay	14	NY Giants	6
Cleveland	14	Broncos	7
Kansas City	23	Oakland	17 (OT)
Atlanta	27	New Orleans	24 (OT)
San Diego	27	Philadelphia	21
Denver	38	Washington	31
NY Jets	27	Jacksonville	10
Seattle	24	Cincinnati	21
San Francisco	28	New England	3
Chicago	25	Tampa Bay	6
Dallas	23	Minnesota	17 (OT)

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starting of today

until further

notice

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### 3-way in first Greek league

ATHENS (AP) — Polish striker Krzysztof Warzycha scored one goal and Giorgos Donis added another Sunday to give defending champion Panathinaikos Athens a 2-1 victory over cross-town Athinaikos away and a three-way lead in the Greek first division soccer league. Ofi Crete and Olympiakos Piraeus both scored victories and share the prime position with Panathinaikos with 9 points each after three games. Ofi trounced Larissa 6-2 away and Olympiakos beat newcomer Paniliakos 3-0 at home.

### Former Olympic champion dead at 79

MALMO, Sweden (AP) — Erik Nilsson, who won two Olympic soccer medals and a bronze in the 1950 World Cup for Sweden, died this weekend, Swedish news agency TT said Sunday. He was 79. Nilsson, one of the top defenders in Swedish soccer history, made 57 international appearances between 1938 and 1952. He was a member of the team that captured the 1948 Olympic title in London and won a bronze four years later in Helsinki, Finland, before retiring from the national team. Two years earlier, he played for Sweden's bronze-medal winning team in Brazil. Nilsson never played club soccer abroad. He spent most of his career with Malmo FF (600-plus games) in southern Sweden. Nilsson's 1948 Olympic teammate Gunnar Nordahl, the all-time leading scorer for AC Milan, died Friday at age 73 in Italy.

### Senegalese beats Hlasek

BORDEAUX (AP) — Yaya Doumbia of Senegal became the first pro player to win two tournaments as a qualifier when he beat Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Passing Shot tournament Sunday. The 32-year-old Doumbia also took the Lyon tournament in 1988 as a qualifier, having to win three matches to get into the main draw of 32. He entered this year ranked 766th and was 282nd at the beginning of the week. "I might not have the power of these younger guys but maybe more experience," Doumbia said. "At 20 you want to break mountains. At 30 you rather try to move them a little." There have been 23 players who have won tournaments as qualifiers in the pro era

# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1995 11

## Graf lawyers offer \$10m bail



BONN (AFP) — Lawyers for Peter Graf, the father of top tennis star Steffi, are willing to post bail of up to \$10.2 million to secure his release from jail while tax fraud charges against him are heard.

"That sum would reduce fears that he would flee from justice," Peter Slania, one of the lawyers, told national television station ARD late on Saturday.

"The money would also serve as a deposit for tax authorities."

Steffi Graf visited her father on Friday for the first time since he was jailed at Mannheim prison on Aug. 2, Slania added.

Mannheim court will decide Monday whether to release Graf from custody

for managing his daughter's business affairs and prosecutors allege tax evasion on revenue of \$121 million.

Two weeks earlier, a winning team in Monaco

had spent many

days competing in another

at All Indian Open

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## Damascus is said ready to redeploy forces in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Syria is willing to move its 35,000 troops stationed in Lebanon to the eastern Bekaa Valley, Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabil Berri said in a speech designed to allay Christian fears of domination by Damascus.

"On the security level, Syria is willing more than Lebanon to redeploy its troops (in Lebanon), but Syria still represents a Lebanese security need in light of the continued Israeli attempts to threaten Lebanon and disturb its general order," the pro-Syrian Shiite Muslim speaker said in a speech on Sunday.

Mr. Berri spoke in mainly-Christian Jbel district, north of Beirut, where most people, along with some co-religionists in other areas, boycotted parliamentary polls in 1992, saying they refused to vote while Syrian soldiers remained in Lebanon.

They said the polls tightened Syria's hold by producing a pro-Syrian parliament.

Mr. Berri's remarks followed statements by Lebanon's exiled Christian opposition leaders who last week attacked what they said was Syria's rule of their country. They dismissed the current Lebanese leadership as puppets controlled by Syria.

Lebanon has emerged from 15 years of civil war with neighbouring Syria playing the role of power-broker in the country's affairs. Syria's 35,000 soldiers are deployed across two-thirds of Lebanon's territory, while Syria's traditional foe, Israel, occupies a narrow southern anti-guerrilla border zone.

Under the terms of the 1989 Taif peace accord which silenced Lebanon's civil war

guns, a Syrian troop redeployment to the Bekaa Valley should have taken place by September 1992. Lebanese officials have repeatedly said they still needed Syrian help in shoring up a fragile internal peace.

Mr. Berri, seeking to reassure Lebanese Christians that their country had not been absorbed by Syria, said all agreements signed between Beirut and Damascus showed Syria's concern over its smaller neighbour "to the point that some Syrian ministers have complained that the facts gave Lebanon more strength."

Touching on talks earlier this month in Damascus at which he was reconciled with his rival, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, Mr. Berri said the essence of the talks was that the two would resort to the law and Lebanese institutions to settle their disputes.

"There was nothing else," Mr. Berri added, apparently denying earlier reports that the two had agreed in Damascus on extending the term of pro-Syrian Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

Mr. Berri said parliament would not stay one day after its term expires next year — an assurance to some Christians who fear an extension of Mr. Hrawi's term which expires in November would be followed by a similar extension of the current parliament.

He said Syrian officials were annoyed by the continuous squabbling of Lebanon's top officials who turn to Damascus to solve their disputes. He said Syria did not want to play the role of arbiter in purely internal Lebanese problems.

## Killing of presidential hopeful is a bad omen for Algerian elections

ALGIERS (AFP) — The slaying on Sunday of a presidential candidate by Muslim fundamentalists two months before scheduled elections served as a bloody reminder of Algeria's deep civil unrest.

It is also a violent challenge to President Lamaine Zeroual, who had formally called the day before for the elections to take place.

Several bombs have exploded in different part of Algeria in the last few days, though none have caused injury.

Ahmed Majid Benhadid, 48, was shot on Sunday morning by three men while leaving his home in Boudouaou, 30 kilometres east of the Algerian capital Algiers.

A minor candidate who headed an association promoting sports and cultural activities, Benhadid did not enjoy any special protection as a candidate.

Indeed, when he declared his candidacy local police asked him to leave the city, a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold, according to the Tribune, an independent daily.

"No one will touch me. They knew me. I am a son of the people," Benhadid said at the time.

His killers, according to witnesses, were three

"youngsters" who fled after firing the fatal shots.

Benhadid's murder is seen as a bloody omen that the run-up to the first-round elections, scheduled for Nov. 16, are likely to be marred by the kind of violence that has already claimed at least 30,000 lives since 1992.

The independent daily Le Matin described the slaying of Benhadid as "a kind of challenge" to the government, while the daily El Watan called it "a first bloody blow" that is "at the same time a message addressed to the candidates and the Algerian people."

The slaying also highlights the inability of the government, despite reassurances, to protect candidates against highly mobile bands of armed commandos that move easily within the poor suburbs where support for Muslim fundamentalists is strongest.

Remaining political candidates are now sharply aware that they are potential targets for terrorist attack, like scores of government-employed journalists and functionaries killed in the last three years.

The campaign runs the risk of unfolding in a state of siege, punctuated by car-bombs and attempted assassinations.

## Iran says it opposes foreign intervention in Afghanistan

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran has urged Afghanistan's neighbours not to interfere in the country's internal struggle, a reference to allegations that Pakistan was supporting the Islamic Taliban movement.

"We hope that all the neighbours... Iran, Pakistan and those situated far away from Afghanistan will keep in mind the past condition of the country and realise that the Afghans should be left alone to tackle their own affairs without any input from outside," Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said Mr. Velayati was speaking in an interview published on Monday in the English-language Iran News newspaper.

The Afghan government in Kabul earlier this month said it had proof of Pakistani support for Taliban fighters trying to topple Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Both Pakistan and the Taliban movement denied the charge.

Pakistan assured the Islamic Republic (of Iran) several times that it is not interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan," Mr. Velayati said. "The government in Kabul refutes what Pakistan says."

Iran closed its border with Afghanistan and stepped up security there after the Taliban this month captured areas near the border from forces supporting Mr. Rabbani.

Tehran has been suspicious of the Taliban student militia which Iranian newspapers have accused of being organised by Pakistan.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Aseff Ahmad Alai has been sent to Rome and may meet there with ex-Afghan King Zaher Shah following dramatic changes in the military balance in Afghanistan, officials in Islamabad said Monday.

Mr. Alai flew to the Italian capital Sunday from Tehran after talks with Iranian leaders on the latest developments in Afghanistan.



JAPAN-JORDAN TALKS: His Majesty King Hussein and Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Monday chair talks between Jordan and Japan on bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and other issues (Photo by Yousef Allan)

## Palestinians seek control over digs

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP)

— The Palestinians are demanding a freeze on all archaeological excavations in the West Bank, including the Qumran area where four newly discovered caves may hold more Dead Sea scrolls, officials said.

But despite emerging plans to establish Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank, Israeli archaeologists said they would press ahead with a schedule to begin there in coming months.

The dispute is among remaining issues on the negotiating table in Taba, Egypt, where Israeli and Palestinian leaders were meeting Sunday in a last-ditch effort to reach a West Bank deal by Sept. 21.

"We ask that all archaeological activity in the West Bank be stopped," said Hanan Taha, who headed the Palestinian negotiators on the issue. "There is no reason to start excavations in land that will be turned over to us."

Amir Drori, head of the Israeli antiquities authority, told the Associated Press the sides were negotiating on who will control archaeological sites, but refused to reveal the Israeli position.

The question was brought to the fore by a surprise August announcement by two Israeli archaeologists that they had found previously unknown manmade caves in Qumran.

The area, a possible tourist attraction on the northwestern shores of the Dead Sea, has already been extensively excavated and surveyed since the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in the 1950s.

The scrolls, written between 150 B.C. and A.D. 50, are among the most important archaeological finds of the century. They shed light on the origins of Christianity and the history of Judaism, and include the earliest known texts of the Old Testament.

Hanan Eshel, the Israeli archaeologist who discovered the new caves, said there was a good chance more scrolls or other artifacts lay in them since there were no signs they had been robbed. He said the excavation would take about three weeks.

The West Bank deal would constitute the second stage of the September 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) peace accord, after Gaza and Jericho became autonomous 16 months ago.

Although the plan would at first allow for self-rule only in enclaves around the major Palestinian cities, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has already given control over most civilian areas of life in the entire West Bank.

Mr. Taha maintained the planned Israeli dig would amount to "last minute plundering." He added excavations could proceed even under Palestinian jurisdiction.

Yitzhak Magen, Israel's chief archaeologist in the West Bank, said the Palestinians' demands "have no effect on our work" and excavations would take place as planned by year's end.

Robert Eisenman, head of the religion department at California State University in Long Beach, said he would welcome Palestinian control over the sites.

Mr. Eisenman led a 1992 radar survey of the Qumran area and located at least two underground cavities he said might contain scrolls but was denied permission to probe them by Israel.

## Kuwaiti woman jailed for murdering maid

### KUWAIT CITY (AP)

— A criminal court here sentenced a Kuwaiti woman to ten years in jail for battering her housemaid to death with a wooden stick on Aug. 16.

The prosecution accused the employer of murdering her Sri Lankan housemaid by hitting her on the face, head and body with a shot that had a pointed iron heel, the newspaper added.

The maid died from head injuries sustained in the attack on April 16, 1994.

The Kuwaiti woman told the court the maid had refused to clean the house when asked. She admitted attacking the maid first with a sharp-edged iron bar until she fell to the floor and then with the shoe.

"She was screaming and trying to escape from me... I didn't mean to kill her," the woman told the prosecution. "I also hit her with a wooden stick two or three days before her death," she confessed.

The Kuwaiti's husband told the prosecution that his wife called him at work and explained what had happened. He then reported it to police.

He said there had been a number of disagreements between his wife and the maid who did not speak Arabic and did not understand

orders given to her.

The defence lawyer asked the court to clear the woman of murder or to reduce the punishment as she was a mother of four children, the eldest only four years old. He also sought psychiatric tests for her.

But the court heard that the woman did not suffer from any mental illness and was responsible for all her statements and actions.

The court decided there was no reason to show the woman mercy because of the brutality of her acts. She inflicted injuries to nearly every part of the maid's body and stopped battering her only after she had died.

The verdict is to be referred to Kuwait's appeals court.

The Sri Lankan embassy has identified the victim as P. Pushpalatha, 23. She was married with two children living in Sri Lanka and had been working in Kuwait for about five months at the time of her death in April 1994.

Hundreds of domestic helpers, mostly from the Philippines and Sri Lanka, have sought refuge at their embassies in Kuwait. Most of them complain of overwork, non-payment of salaries — which rarely exceed \$130 a month — beatings and sexual abuse.

## Thousands of Egyptians held in desert jails — rights group

### CAIRO (AFP)

— Thousands of accused Muslim militants have been exiled to isolated desert prisons in Egypt where they undergo torture and are forbidden medical care by security officials, a right group said.

Security services "have found a new way to violate prisoners' rights by the policy of Al-Taghreeb," or exile, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) said in a report on prisons.

"The term, used commonly by prisoners, means the transfer of the detainee to prisons situated far from their homes (where) inmates are mistreated and are denied visits from relatives and lawyers," the EOHR said.

The two main prisons where Islamist prisoners are sent are the Wadi Al Jadid prison, in the desert 620 kilometers west of Cairo, and the Wadi Al Natrun, 89 kilometers northwest of the capital.

Some 3,000 inmates "affiliated to the Jamaa Islamiyah" extremist group are held at Wadi Al Natrun.

Jadid, along with 1,000 "political detainees affiliated to violent groups" in Natrun, the group said.

"The Interior Ministry has embarked on laying a siege on prisons," the report said, listing 20 inmates who died in prison in 1995, including 13 who have died in Wadi Al Jadid since it opened in February, EOHR said.

The largest wave of "exiles" came in February, when authorities moved 1,500 inmates of Tora prison in Cairo to Wadi Al Jadid and 1,000 others to Wadi Al Natrun.

The EOHR said it had "deep suspicions" that authorities "leave detainees in need of medical care in unhealthy living conditions as sort of punishment, which often results in their death."

Medical care in the Wadi Al Jadid and Natrun prisons, as well as the Abu Zaahab prison in Cairo and the Aqrah (Scorpion) wing of Tora, all used to house Muslim militants, "is almost nonexistent," the group said.

The 20 inmates listed by the EOHR as having died in prison all showed "severe weight loss and de-

hydration." Most were buried in late-night funerals under heavy security, the group noted.

Prison authorities also "stage repetitive collective punishment campaigns under the pretext of restoring discipline," the report said.

It cited witnesses in Wadi Al Natrun, Abu Zaabal, and Tanta prison, north of the capital, saying prison guards regularly assaulted detainees with dogs, electric sticks and wooden clubs.

They also shaved off prisoners' heads, a symbol of piety for Muslim fundamentalists, witnesses said.

In Wadi Al Jadid, arriving inmates are stripped to their underwear and "ordered to take on a female name and to consider themselves indicated in a prostitution case," witnesses said.

They "remain undressed for a week" and must call out their female name and the charge against them — prostitution — whenever food is distributed, they said. Inmates in Wadi Natrun prison reported similar treatment.

## Egyptian professionals face military court

### CAIRO (R)

— Muslim Brotherhood member Essam Al Eryan looked odd without his doctor's white coat. His colleagues — lawyers, engineers, teachers and former members of parliaments — had traded in business suits for prison garb.

As leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, their crime is daring to translate their Islamic faith into political action for the November parliamentary elections, diplomats and analysts say.

Until recently, the Islamist laymen were outspoken, freely receiving journalists at their offices to explain their vision of an Islamic state. But on Sunday they were dragged to court in police vans and locked in iron cages like any other criminals.

The Egyptian government has charged them with reorganising the Brotherhood, recruiting members, conspiring against the government and violating the constitution.

But why did the govern-

ment suddenly become so sensitive about Muslim Brotherhood activities which it had tolerated for years? Their statements have appeared in government newspapers and leading Brothers have even met government officials.

The answer, the diplomats and analysts say, is simply the elections and forecasts that the country's largest and most influential fundamentalist organisation would do better than the government thinks comfortable. The government denies it.

The Brotherhood has had a foothold in local government since elections in 1992 and is still planning to put up 94 candidates for the 444 parliamentary seats at stake in November.

Egypt officially has a multi-party system but the ruling National Democratic Party, latest incarnation of the party that has governed since 1952, always wins an overwhelming majority.

The government began its slow but steady drive against

the Brotherhood back in January. First, police rounded up 20 leaders and a few months before the elections, they picked up 150 more.

Last month President Hosni Mubarak, accusing the Brotherhood of funding armed militants seeking to overthrow him and install a strict Islamic state, issued a decree referring the 49 to a military court, equaling them with violent militants of the Gamma Al Islamiyah.

Their charges do not include any offences usually referred to military courts, such as murder, using arms and possessing explosives. Military trials tend to be quick and more severe than those in civilian courts. Verdicts cannot be appealed.

The 49 standing trial appear to be carefully selected. At least seven are former members of parliament and most are eligible and powerful contenders to win seats in the poll.

Diplomats say the govern-

ment is convinced the real threat to its power comes from the Brotherhood rather than from armed militants it has tamed through security measures.

The Brotherhood has much deeper roots in Egyptian society and its conservative vision of Islam is spreading steadily and confidently, changing the character of Egyptian society.

"The Brotherhood have the money and the influence. Their members are professionals. They are in the centre of the social stratum. They are legitimate, well-respected, accepted and liked in society," said one analyst.